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28-PAGE SUPPLEMENT
Premium line entry

WIN A
The future of fashion



'Devastating response' to chemical weapons

Saddam is given price of peace

President Clinton last night demanded that President Saddam Hussein give UN weapons inspectors "free, full, unfettered access" to all sites in Iraq as the price of averting a Western bombing onslaught.

In an address to military leaders at the Pentagon, Mr Clinton accused international critics of military action of failing to learn the lessons of the past or to recognise the dangers in the future. Iraq's dictator was, he said, part of the "unholy alliance of terrorists, drug traffickers and organised international

criminals" who posed the next century's greatest threat to peace. In the Commons, Robin Cook said that there would be a "proportionate response" if Saddam used chemical or biological weapons. It is believed that this would involve "devastating" air raids rather than a nuclear attack. The Foreign Secretary also told MPs that he expected the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to agree that the Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, should visit Baghdad, but said: "I cannot express the same confidence

'We have chance to do the right thing'

BY BRONWEN MADDOX
PRESIDENT CLINTON yesterday mounted his most powerful defence yet of military action in the Gulf, describing President Saddam Hussein as the model of the "tyrants and terrorists" who will be the "predators of the 21st century". He was addressing military leaders but he aimed his words beyond them at the American public. No action was risk-free, he said. Those in uniform were ready but "the American people have to be ready as well". In a snub to Russian claims to have begun to broker a compromise with Iraq over UN weapons inspections, Mr Clinton dismissed "taking some ambiguous third route". Iraq must be held to a "clear, immutable, reasonable diplomatic standard" of agreeing "to free, full, unfettered access" for UN inspectors, who were the "eyes and ears of the civilised world", he said. "There must be no dilution or diminution of the integrity of the inspection system."

A dusty and desolate nation prepares for war

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein started moving his infantry and armour into remote desert sites last night in the hope of hiding them from Western air attacks. Scores of armoured personnel carriers were being moved down the desert highway between Baghdad and Amman as correspondents made the harrowing 12-hour road journey to an Iraqi capital otherwise isolated from the rest of the world by sanctions. Apart from the army moving its equipment out of the city, the Iraqi military bases alongside the highway appeared to be virtually empty. Command and control centres have gone on to a war footing and established themselves in unfortified and well-camouflaged mobile bases. Iraqi strategists appeared to have calculated that large and well-known military sites would be targeted in bombing runs, and are likely to have issued orders to disperse their forces on the ground. Military camps along the highway have been abandoned in favour of makeshift command centres guarded by anti-aircraft cannon and heavy artillery. Helicopters swoop in and out of the command "bivouacs", keeping

□ Saddam is moving his forces in case the Americans strike. Sam Kiley in Baghdad watched the manoeuvres

low to the barren desert like flies buzzing over a tabletop. On a bright and sunny day the probability of war seemed far away. The desert stretched away on either side for hundreds of miles like a vast gravel pit like a moonscape where only scorpions could feel at home. Iraqi officials went out of their way to be friendly at border in the once-opulent VIP lounge, now dusty and bedraggled. In Baghdad information ministry officials offered a smiling welcome, but the city wears a drab face. Baghdad beggars, some of them children badly burned and disfigured in earlier air raids during the Gulf War and subsequent "pin prick" operations against Iraqi weapons sites, rapped on car windows desperate for a crust of bread or a few coins to keep hunger at bay. After seven years of trade sanctions the once glittering city streets, the blue tiled domes of mosques and the white marble cladding around extravagant modern architectural masterpieces have taken on the patina of poverty. Dust, grime and grim misery characterizes the mood among most Iraqis. The once-wealthy now shuffle about the streets in fraying designer outfits ogling foreigners with ill-concealed jealousy. The pathetic sight was offset by good-humoured police at roadblocks and soldiers who waved from the tops of their armoured vehicles after news that a French-driven initiative may succeed after intensive discussions among permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

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Cook tells Iraq to expect massive bombardment

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR
BRITAIN gave a warning to Iraq last night of a massive military bombardment if Saddam Hussein retaliated with chemical or biological weapons. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, told the House of Commons that if such retaliation took place there would be a "proportionate response" to Saddam. The threat raised inevitable speculation that Mr Cook was referring to the possibility of a tactical nuclear attack on Iraq. However, although Foreign Office officials declined to spell out the precise meaning of his words, the Foreign Secretary was not heralding a nuclear strike but telling Saddam that there would be a

conventional attack going far beyond anything envisaged so far. The Americans have said that the response would be "devastating" if Iraq used chemical or biological weapons. A similar warning was passed to Iraq by intermediaries at the start of the 1991 war. Military experts said that neither America nor Britain would contemplate a nuclear attack on a country such as Iraq, but that Israel, if subjected to chemical or biological warfare, would almost certainly retaliate with nuclear weapons. As MPs prepared to vote in favour of the principle of military action against Saddam if diplomacy fails, differences of emphasis in the Government's approach emerged. Mr Cook, respond-



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother waves to the crowd from the hospital steps

Queen Mother steps out with a smile

BY ALAN HAMILTON
LOOKING remarkably spry and apparently walking with only slight difficulty, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother left hospital yesterday after her second hip replacement operation. She emerged from the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers shortly before 11.30 am into bright sunshine, walking with two bone-handled sticks and with two nurses hovering behind her. Dressed in a bright lilac coat and matching coat, she stood at the door acknowledging a burst of applause from a small crowd of onlookers with a wave and a smile. After 23 days in the hospital following a fall at Sandringham when she broke her hip, the Queen Mother looked alert and well, waving to the crowd several times before she was faced with tackling three steps down to the pavement and her Daimler. She held her sticks in one hand and with the other gripped the hand-rail, negotiating the steps slowly but with relative ease. Once on the level she stopped, leant on her sticks, and chatted with the nurses, one of whom curtsied and presented her with a small bouquet of yellow spring flowers. She waved again before climbing more or less unaided into the car for the short drive home to Clarence House. Lewis Rolph, who lives nearby, said: "I thought she looked amazingly well, not even really using her sticks to come down the steps. I think she is wonderful for her age." Chris Hobden, who was taking his children to play tennis when the Queen Mother emerged, said: "She is a very brave lady. She is wonderful, as dignified as always."

At 97, the Queen Mother Continued on page 2, col 1

Sinn Fein asks for injunction

Sinn Fein sought an injunction last night to halt moves to expel the party from the peace talks. Proceedings at Dublin Castle were delayed for most of the day while Sinn Fein consulted lawyers. Sinn Fein announced its intention to take legal action and handed George Mitchell, chairman of the talks, an opinion from its senior counsel. Page 2



Blunkett banker

David Blunkett, Education and Employment Secretary, has set up a new relationship with the Bank of England, holding regular meetings independently from the Treasury. Officials have discussed plans for raising skills in the economy. Page 29

England win gripping Test

England drew level in their Caribbean cricket series yesterday, winning a gripping third Test match in Port of Spain by three wickets (Alan Lee writes). It was West Indies' first defeat on the ground for 21 years and the narrowest winning margin England have achieved against them. Cheered on by an almost entirely British crowd, England needed until after lunch to score the 38 runs required. The man of the match was Angus Fraser. Page 48

£10bn debt repaid

The Government repaid £10.4 billion of the national debt last month, a record and £4 billion more than economists had expected. The repayment was prompted by income tax receipts of £11.8 bn. Page 25

Princess's driver takes Powell on last journey

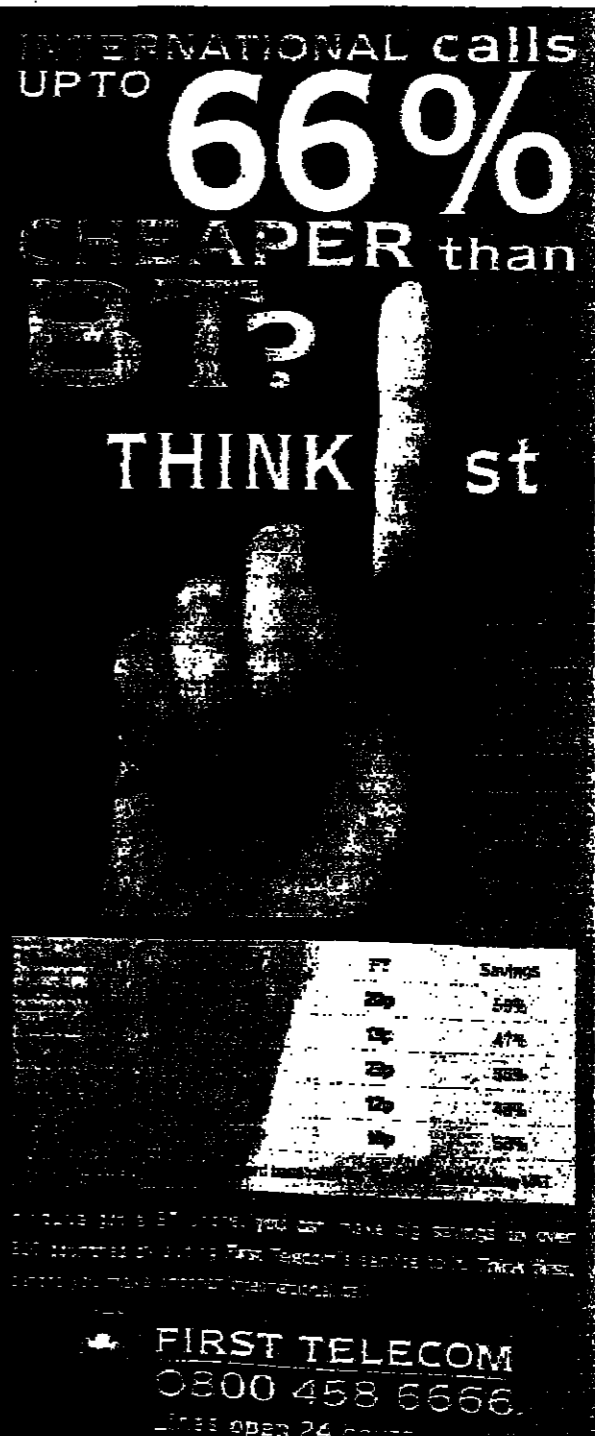
BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT
ENOCH POWELL's funeral hearse will be driven today from Westminster to his last resting place in Warwickshire by the chauffeur who drove Diana, Princess of Wales on her final journey to Althorp. Sidney Clarke, 60, will lead the funeral cortege on its two-hour 90-mile journey from St Margaret's Church, Westminster, to St Mary's Collegiate Church in Warwick. Mr Powell's cortege will travel at normal traffic speed out of Westminster through Hyde Park, around

Marble Arch, on to the A40 before joining the M40 for the last leg of the journey to Warwick where Mr Powell will be buried at a private family ceremony this afternoon. Mr Clarke, a long-serving employee of the undertakers, Leventons, was honoured by the Queen in the New Year Honours with a Royal Victorian Medal for his work that day when he had to use windscreen wipers to clear the flowers thrown by mourners. Keith Leventon, a director, said: "Sidney is one of our most senior drivers. It seemed right that he should drive the hearse for Mr Powell's funeral." Mr Powell, the poet, soldier,

biblical scholar and one of the most charismatic politicians of his generation, had supervised the funeral arrangements. He first began correspondence over the details in 1983 when he was 70 and met the undertakers before he died. Last night, shortly before Big Ben struck 6 pm, his body arrived in a hearse driven by Mr Clarke at Westminster Abbey. Today's first service will be held at the adjoining church of St Margaret's. The coffin, which was draped in the Union Flag and which bore a single wreath of white lilies, was carried into the Abbey by six pallbearers. The body

rested overnight on a catafalque in the small 13th century St Faith's Chapel, at the end of the south transept, after the Abbey was closed to the public. His widow, Pamela, and close members of the family, were in the Abbey, which offered prayers for the former Conservative and Ulster Unionist MP who died on February 8 aged 85. A communion service was due to be held at the Abbey early this morning which would be the only time the coffin would be on view to the public. Mr and Mrs Powell regularly attended Communion at the Abbey. Funeral plans, page 5

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Out of office, but powerfully in command

THE House was rapt. MPs followed his every argument. Tam Dalyell even called him "Prime Minister". As John Major spoke yesterday, few could help reflecting that he had never been listened to with this respect when he was Prime Minister.

Norman Lamont once sneered that his leader was "in office but not in power". Out of office, Mr Major made a Commons speech yesterday with the power to turn the debate, as those in office were falling to do.

"What would this House say?" he cried, unscripted and with passion, if in two years Saddam Hussein were to strike — and now was the only time we could have stopped him? No other speaker

had put it like this, and the impression was electric. Not in years had this politician commanded such attention.

Of course, that was partly because, leading no tribe, Major no longer stirs tribal divisions. But not entirely. Clutching a sheaf of notes which he never consulted, the former Prime Minister sounded like a liberated man: as informed and carefully judged as is his habit, but answerable to nothing but his own conscience.

Major also introduced one of the few new ideas which emerged during opening speeches in yesterday's Commons debate on Iraq: a proposal that Britain discuss with Iraq's neighbours the possibility of direct aid to the



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Iraqi people, bypassing their dictator. Calling for continual, close, private diplomacy between Britain and the other Arab states, Major reminded us of his own greatest skill.

Robin Cook reminded us of his own skills, too. He spoke with great deliberation and extraordinarily slowly — a *Hansard* reporter's dream.

I timed the Foreign Secretary at an average of 138 words per minute, as against John Major (not a fast speaker either) at 175; the BBC news standard is 160, while other presenters vary around 180.

Mr Cook made the case in a grinding, relentless way, but without passion.

The Foreign Secretary sounded intellectually persuaded, but not emotionally convinced. Something of this coolness at the core of Mr Cook's case seemed to communicate itself to a House, which heard him respectfully but without enthusiasm.

Few hear, hears interrupted Cook, and when they came they sounded no more than polite. For the Tories, Michael Howard sounded as measured, and as cold, as the

man he shadows. The chamber was never full on either side.

This is no occasion for levity, but your sketchwriter could not help reflecting that Unscum is a dreadfully uninspiring word to go to war for. The very sound, like "Birmingham", lowers the spirits. Mr Cook said Unscum 25 times during his speech, but somehow failed to build up any head of steam behind the sound.

One wondered whether Henry V could have quickened the pulse with quite such success on the eve of Agincourt if "God for Harry, Unscum and St George" had been the cry. Limitate the action of the tiger though he might, Mr Cook failed to

stiffen the sinews by appealing to Unscum.

And Cook pronounces it in such a discouraging way. He hits the "U" with a hard, little glottal yelp, then spits out the "scum" as though he were a streetfighting Scot saying "scum". The whole thing sounds like a skin disease or something floating on the surface of your tea.

No doubt Unscum is a magnificent war aim, but could it be renamed? Anagrams are unhelpful: Smunco hardly summons up the blood. Noscum carries, at least, a classical ring.

Simon Jenkins, page 20
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Tories claim victory for the countryside

The Tories yesterday claimed "a triumph for the countryside" after ministers withdrew key clauses of a Bill that would have given the new Regional Development Agencies greater powers to develop greenfield sites. Richard Caborn, the Planning Minister, announced the move after a heated Commons debate in which the Conservatives argued that the green belt and national parks should have special protection.

Tim Yeo, Shadow Environment Minister, said the Government's policy was in disarray. "The heart of the Bill has been ripped out," he said. The Tories have already launched a "Save our Countryside" campaign after fears that thousands of homes will be built on greenfield sites.

Treatment record

A record 2.39 million patients were treated by the National Health Service this winter. Mild weather and the lack of a flu epidemic meant that hospitals were able to treat many people as outpatients. However, a cold snap during the next few weeks could still see the health service facing crisis, Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said yesterday, congratulating NHS staff for treating so many patients.

NHS damages scheme

A fast-track compensation scheme for patients claiming damages from the National Health Service is being investigated by the Health Secretary. "I am extremely concerned about the increasing litigation that is besetting the health service and looking at how we can prevent it being overwhelmed by lawyers," Frank Dobson told the Commons Select Committee on Public Administration.

Skinner queries bed cost

Lord Irvine of Lairg came under cross-party attack in the Commons over the £650,000 refurbishment of his official Westminster residence, including £16,000 on two oak beds. Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, and Gerald Howarth, Tory MP for Aldershot, both questioned the Lord Chancellor's judgment in spending £69,000 on wallpaper while cutting legal aid for the poor.

Husband's murder bid

A former Royal Navy engineer was found guilty of trying to kill his estranged wife by wiring up the garage door to a live socket. Robert Miller, 40, a Falklands veteran from Southport, denied attempting to murder his wife, Susan, 44. The jury at Liverpool Crown Court took just under four hours to bring in a guilty verdict. Sentencing was adjourned for a week for reports.

Westminster aims low

Westminster council has again set a council tax among the lowest in the country, despite savage cuts to its government grant. There had been fears of an increase as high as 44 per cent. The Conservative London borough will charge council taxpayers £325 for a band D property in 1998-99, a rise of 7 per cent on last year. The rise is in line with the national average.

Boy trapped by toggle

Ajit Singh, 9, died when a toggle on his coat became trapped in a Tube train door and he was pulled into the tunnel wall. St Pancras Coroner's Court was told that the boy's foster father was watching but was powerless to help at Holborn station last October. Stephen Chan, the coroner, said the accident, while the nightmare of many parents, was very rare. The jury returned an open verdict.

Life for market killer

A robber has been jailed for life for killing a supermarket worker. Richard Allen shot David Beesley, 28, in the back of the head when he could not open the safe at Kwik Save in West Didsbury, Manchester. Allen, 32, of Chorlton, Manchester, who denied the charges, was convicted at Manchester Crown Court of murdering Mr Beesley and plotting to rob the supermarket.

Clinic clash settled

A consultant who claimed constructive dismissal against a leading NHS fertility clinic has withdrawn the allegation after an agreement to name its new operating theatre after her. Reshmi Varma, the former director of the fertility unit at St George's Hospital Medical School, London, brought her claim after resigning last year following a clash with a new professor.

Dog must be neutered

A magistrate ordered that a dying dog must be neutered to win freedom from police kennels. The dog, Judd, was seized six years ago on suspicion of being a "pit bull type" and not being muzzled. A magistrate sitting at Marylebone, London, agreed that the mastiff-terrier cross was no longer a danger to the public but said the owner, Gary Dazne, of Hackney, East London, must have it castrated.

CORRECTION

The closure of Gabrielle Designs did not (as reported on February 13) indicate that Paddington Bear sales worldwide had declined, but only that sales of the particular products made by Gabrielle Designs were affected by the strong pound and Far East economic problems.

Sinn Fein seeks to halt expulsion from peace talks

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT, IN DUBLIN

SINN FEIN sought an injunction last night to halt moves to expel the party from the peace talks.

Proceedings at Dublin Castle were delayed for most of the day while Sinn Fein consulted its lawyers and the party's ruling council met in emergency session to consider its options.

When a plenary session of the talks finally began in the evening, Sinn Fein announced its intention to take legal action and handed George Mitchell, chairman of the talks, an opinion from its senior counsel.

Mr Mitchell refused Sinn Fein's request for an indefinite adjournment and ruled that the expulsion proceedings should continue. The party presented an 11-page rebuttal of the allegations levelled against it.



Mitchell: refused request for an adjournment

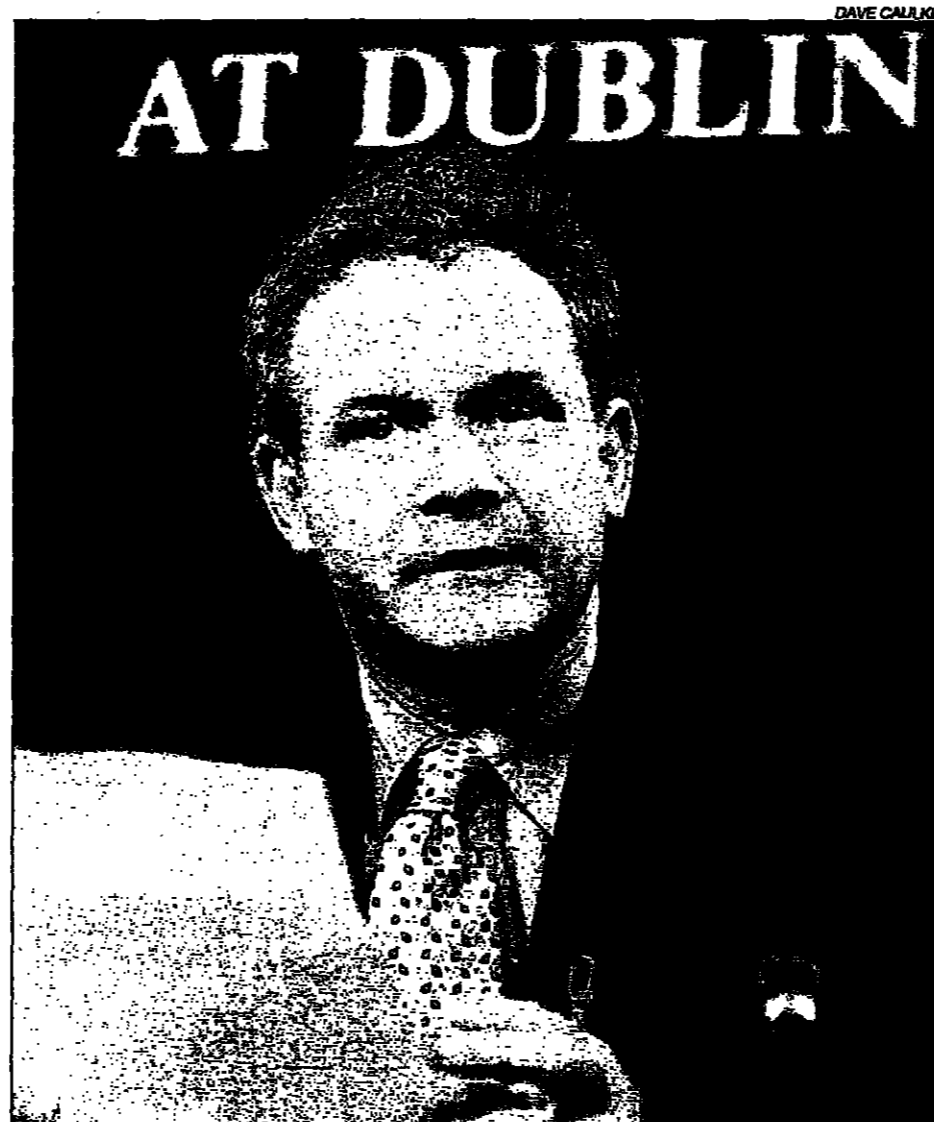
Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, said that his party was reluctant to take legal action but was "determined to defend the rights of our electorate".

Earlier in the day Sinn Fein supporters blocked a motorway in Belfast, and its elected representatives staged a protest rally outside Dublin Castle.

For legal reasons the Governments had to give Sinn Fein every chance to present its case, but there remained little doubt that having heard the views of all the parties they would decide to eject Gerry Adams' party.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, insisted that the evidence was "specific and substantial". Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, said that his police chiefs agreed with the RUC that there was "a case to answer".

The decision was nonetheless acutely difficult for the Irish Government, particularly as the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party indicated that it would oppose Sinn Fein's expulsion from the peace talks unless the Governments could show that the murders were meant to influence the talks, and that Sinn



Martin McGuinness reading Sinn Fein's statement at Dublin Castle yesterday

Fein was responsible for the IRA's actions.

The Irish Government rarely differs with the SDLP, but for it to openly split with London is almost unthinkable and the Ulster Unionists

would almost certainly walk out if Sinn Fein was not expelled.

Three West Belfast men charged with one of the murders at the centre of the talks crisis have asked to be trans-

ferred to the IRA's wing of the Maze prison. William Groves, 25, Sean Valente, 25, and Samuel Baker, 26, are accused of murdering Robert Dougan, a member of the Ulster Defence Association, on Tuesday.

Recovery defies the textbooks

QUEEN Elizabeth the Queen Mother's progress after surgery for her fractured hip is more than a textbook recovery. No medical author would dare to suggest that a 97-year-old would be fit to walk unaided down the hospital steps three weeks after having a second hip replacement.

The Queen Mother was using two sticks when walking on the flat, but needed no assistance other than that provided by the stair rail and one stick on the steps.

Although her recovery does great credit to her surgeons, the anaesthetists, nurses and hospital ancillary workers, some of the credit and some of the praise must also go to her



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

indomitable spirit and her physique.

At 97 it is not unknown for patients after surgery to turn their heads to the wall and thereafter die of nothing more than hypostatic pneumonia brought on by their own inertia and lack of will to live. When the Queen Mother left hospital she was not only

walking extraordinarily well but looked alert and healthy.

The greatest danger to the Queen Mother after the operation was that she would develop a post-operative chest infection. The risk of this is now over but she would still need to take care.

The ease with which the Queen Mother's hip fractured

shows that she has osteoporosis, brittle bones. She will have to reconcile herself for a few weeks to having more physical help than she likes or is used to. But her performance at the King Edward VII Hospital gives everybody hope that she will make her 100th birthday.

A new generation of genetically engineered drugs designed to tackle the pain of bone-eroding conditions, which might obviate hip replacements, could be available within the next decade. Trevor Jones, director-general of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, said yesterday that clinical trials were showing good results.

Queen Mother steps out with a smile

Continued from page 1

has become one of the oldest patients to receive an artificial hip joint. Two years ago she had her other hip replaced and until her fall it had appeared to give her a remarkable degree of mobility and a new lease of life. Doctors said yesterday that the Queen Mother would require three months of convalescence and careful

exercise before the second hip attained the same degree of mobility.

Charles Court-Brown, an orthopaedic surgeon at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, said the Queen Mother would have to take it easy for several weeks. "She is a fit lady despite her years. Over the next few weeks she will gradually start walking further every day and then introduce

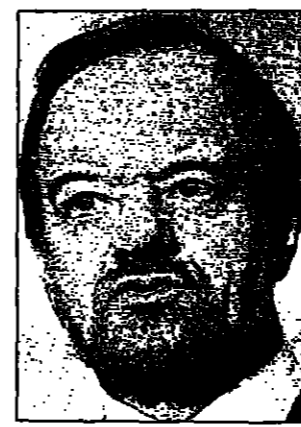
other activities like walking up and down stairs."

Michael Pearse, the head of orthopaedic trauma at Charing Cross hospital, London, said that to get over a second hip operation at the age of 97 was remarkable. The Queen Mother would need a care assistant and would need two sticks to walk for some weeks.

Iraq warning

Continued from page 1

further resolution would not stand in the way of Britain joining the United States in air strikes on Baghdad.



Cook: deeply sceptical about Saddam's offers

The Foreign Secretary told MPs that he expected representatives of the five permanent Security Council members to reach agreement on a visit to Baghdad by Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General. He added, however: "I cannot express the same confidence to the House about the prospects of his success in Baghdad."

Mr Cook showed deep scepticism about alleged offers of compromise by Saddam. He said at no time had Saddam put in writing the offers of compromise that had been attributed to him. Britain remains sceptical over whether Saddam will go far enough in opening up his so-called "presidential" sites to inspectors.

Mr Cook told MPs: "There can be no agreement which compromises the ability of Unscum [the UN Special Commission] to carry out effective inspections without restrictions, without time limits and without no-go areas. That is our bottom line. It is vital that

we win this confrontation because of the clear and real danger posed by Saddam's arsenals of terror." He stressed, however, that military action was not inevitable and said Britain wanted to keep the door open to a peaceful solution.

Mr Cook was speaking after a telephone call between Tony Blair and President Clinton in which, Mr Blair's spokesman said, the two men agreed on the need for "continued massive diplomatic activity".



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Handwritten note: سكرتير من الامم المتحدة

Dempster claims needle phobia in drink case



Dempster: refused to allow police to take blood sample

NIGEL DEMPSTER, the veteran society diarist, is so frightened of needles that he refused to give a blood sample to police after he was arrested for drink-driving, a court was told yesterday.

Emma Wilkins reports on the society diarist's refusal to give police a blood sample

Mr Dempster, 56, was stopped last October at 11.30pm while driving through Hammersmith, West London. A breath test which showed 45 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood meant he had to take a further test by giving a blood or urine sample. Hammersmith Magistrates' Court was told.

Mr Dempster, whose column in the *Daily Mail* chronicles the fortunes of the rich and famous, told a police doctor that he suffered from blood-injury syndrome and offered to give a urine sample. But police insisted on a blood test unless Mr Dempster could prove that he had a valid medical reason for not giving blood.

The diary editor was driving a J-registration red Honda Accord when he was stopped. He made three attempts to provide a breath specimen at the side of the road, but each time the machine aborted the test. "He wasn't breathing with enough force for the machine to register," said PC Stephen Billington.

Mr Dempster was duly arrested and taken to Hammersmith Police Station, where he later managed to provide the breath specimen with the reading of 45 micrograms. Grant Winstock, a GP and forensic medical examiner who was called to the police station to examine Mr Dempster, said that he could find no evidence that he was suffering from the blood-injury disorder.

Mr Dempster who had initially been stopped by two traffic policemen for speeding at 50mph in a 40mph zone, was deemed to have refused to give a blood sample and was charged with driving with excess alcohol. Robin Paley, for the defence, said that Mr Dempster's phobia was so severe that he had never had a tetanus injection and took gas and valium during visits to his dentist for extensive drilling. The disorder stemmed from an incident in Mr Dempster's childhood when blood was taken from him, the court was told.

Sony drops ads after protests over drug images

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

SONY yesterday scrapped a national advertising campaign for its latest Playstation video game after it was accused of exploiting children and young teenagers by using the language of drug culture to sell the game.

The poster and billboard campaign for Cool Boarders 2 shows a scrawled poem, written in a shaky hand, extolling the joys of the next "powder rush".

Sony Computer Entertainment UK insisted that the references were taken from "snowboarders' parlance", but anti-drug campaigners have complained that it uses the language and imagery of the drug world and may encourage drug-taking among impressionable young people.

The company's action followed a broad hint from the Advertising Standards Authority, the industry watchdog, that it should stop the campaign without waiting for a formal judgment expected next week. The authority has so far received ten formal complaints from parents across the country.

While the company emphasises that the words in the poster are snowboarders' parlance for the adrenaline rush of the sport, drug agencies say it could be taken as a reference to "whizz", amphetamine substitute, a drug taken by clubbing teenagers, or cocaine.

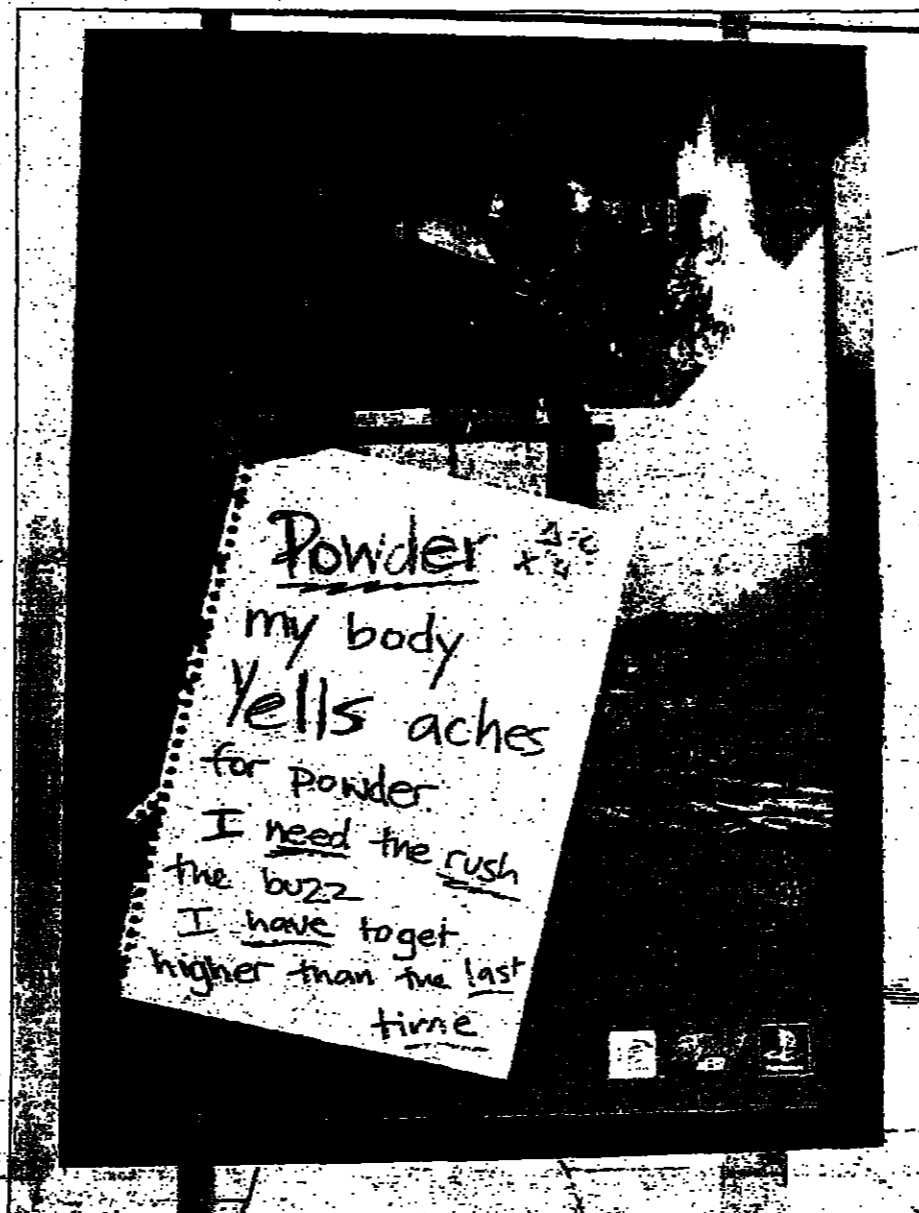
A fuller version of the advertisement appeared in *The Face* magazine containing the lines: "When I'm on it I get a rush, a buzz, the blood coursing through my veins, I get really high, I'm floating, gliding through the air, away from reality and then I begin to come down down with a bump and I need to do it again."

The Health Education Authority, which runs the national drug and solvent addiction campaign, said that anything that appeared to encourage young people to take drugs was irresponsible.

The posters and billboards, posted at bus stops in city centres, are already coming down in Manchester and Leeds. The rest will be swiftly withdrawn, promises Sony, which has sold two million Playstations at £129.99 since they were introduced in Britain. Cool Boarders 2, which retails at £34.99, was launched on the video game market last week. The campaign was created by the London-based advertising agency TWA-Simons-Palmer.

Greg Porter, deputy director of the drug charity group Release, based in London, said: "There is something rather unpleasant about a large corporation exploiting the drug scene in an effort to make ever greater profits. It is the target audience who we should be concerned about."

Alan Houghton, manager of Lifeline, a Manchester-based drugs charity, said that the poster was symptomatic of just how far the drug culture had infiltrated young people's lives. "Young people recognise all the signifiers. It looks like it is written on a school notebook, like a note from one lad to another. It is not unusual for Lifeline to be asked by



A poster for the Sony Playstation video game at a bus stop in Manchester

parents to decode notes written by their children.

Alan Welsman, Sony's UK director of marketing, said in a statement last night: "Although the advertising was designed to be purely a reference to the excitement of snowboarding, we now understand that some people perceive it contains references to drugs. Sony Computer Entertainment has therefore decided to remove all posters from UK poster sites and discontinue the campaign."

Connolly will go back home to be a laird

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

BILLY CONNOLLY has decided to end more than a decade of self-imposed exile and return to live in Scotland. The comedian has bought Candacraig House, an early 19th-century turreted house in Aberdeenshire, 30 minutes' drive from Balmoral.

The "Big Yin" confirmed yesterday that he paid "way beyond" the asking price of £500,000 for the Highland retreat, which is owned by Anita Roddick, the Body Shop founder, and her husband, Gordon Connolly, 55, and his wife, Pamela Stephenson, will move as soon as they have sold Granfontaine Hall in Windsor. They also have a home in Los Angeles.

It is understood that Connolly spotted Candacraig House while filming for the Oscar-nominated *Mrs Brown*, in which he plays Queen Victoria's gillie. The 15-bedroom house with 12 acres of grounds, west of Aberdeen, has views to the salmon-rich River Don. Roddick is said to have spent tens of thousands of pounds on restoration and redecoration.

Yesterday, in an interview with the *Evening Times* of Glasgow, he said: "We all fell

in love with it. There is a little trout loch in the grounds. It will be lovely to wander down after dinner at night and cast a late fly. God, I could even wear my slippers. Heaven!" The former Govan shipyard welder, born in a now demolished tenement in Glasgow, left Scotland in the mid-1980s after his divorce from his first wife and moved to Windsor. In recent years he has visited Glasgow more frequently and was given a lifetime box at Celtic Football Club. His daughter Cara works in a cafe in the city's fashionable West End.



Connolly to 'buy' House from Anita Roddick

CLASH OF CULTURES

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To a snowboarder, powder is a three letter word.

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I GET A RUSH
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I'M FLOWING
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I BEGIN TO COME DOWN
Snowboarders don't care about their flow. They care about their adrenaline rush.

I NEED TO GO TO THE TOILET
Snowboarders don't care about their adrenaline rush. They care about their toilet.

UP, UP, UP WITH THE BELL
Snowboarders don't care about their toilet. They care about their bell.

Killer persuaded solicitor's clerk to help sell rhino horns

BY ADAM FRESCO

A MAN serving life for murdering his wife masterminded the sale of millions of pounds worth of rhino horns on the black market from his prison cell, a court was told yesterday.

Wilfred Bull, 62, persuaded Paul Restrew, a clerk in a firm of London solicitors, to monitor the deal and launder half the £2.8 million price of the horns through his firm's client account, a jury was told. The plan was to sell them to the Far East where they are used as aphrodisiacs.

Mr Restrew, 45, from Wimbledon, southwest London, denies conspiracy to sell rhinoceros horns, but Bull

has already admitted the offence, along with Carol Scotchford-Hughes, 50, David Eley, 54, and his girlfriend Elaine Arscott, 40.

John Farmer, for the prosecution, said: "Mr Bull was an antique dealer and one of the things he dealt with was rhino horns. At the time it was not illegal to do so. But about the time he was convicted of murdering his wife in 1985 it became illegal. At the time he went into prison he had a substantial collection of rhino horns."

"In 1996 it appeared that it was quite likely that Mr Bull would be released from life imprisonment, and he put in motion a chain of events to sell the rhino horns. He contacted

a lady friend, Mrs Scotchford-Hughes, and in due course contact was made with Mr Eley and his girlfriend."

He added that using a false name, Mrs Arscott rang the London Stock Exchange and asked if there was a trade in rhino horns. The person she spoke to alerted the RSPCA and an undercover operation was launched. King's Lynn Crown Court was told.

Mr Farmer added: "By 15 August Mr Restrew had become involved. He had through another client met Mr Bull while he was in custody."

"He is here before you today to determine whether the prosecution can satisfy you that in playing a part to sell the rhino horns he knew it was

rhino horns. When you look at the individual pieces of evidence and consider what he was expected to do it is inconceivable he didn't know. He has known Mr Bull for a long time and knows he is a prisoner serving life for murder and if he is having negotiations with a man for properties over £2 million it's inconceivable he didn't ask what it was."

In a series of taped telephone calls and meetings in hotels, undercover RSPCA and police officers posed as buyers. Alan Fisher, an RSPCA inspector, said that in one phone call, Mr Eley and asked for the horns to be referred to as antique chairs. The trial continues.

Tune-up takes toll on bells

Compromise wrung out of conservationists, reports Ruth Gledhill

CLERGY and conservationists have clashed over attempts to harmonise an out-of-tune peal of church bells. The battle of St John's Waterloo has been fought over eight bells which have been out of tune since they were hung in 1825.

Churchmen, bellringers and worshippers appealed for a harmonious sound to summon churchgoers. But officials from English Heritage wanted the bells to remain out of tune to preserve their rarity.

Now the dispute has been muffled by a compromise. The bells will be retuned next week with five tuned to near-perfect pitch and three, including the key bell, the tenor, left out of tune. Retuning seemed an obvious part of

a £1.5 million restoration of the south London church. The bells were produced by Thomas Mears, one of the most prolific bell founders. "There are not many complete rings of eight bells by Mears that have never been tuned," said Alan Hughes, chairman of Whitechapel Bell Foundry, which was subcontracted to clean and retune them.

"Therefore it was argued by English Heritage that the bells had a rarity value and that they should remain untuned. They then said they were prepared to accept limited tuning. Now the church has a peal of bells which have been tuned so the rarity value has gone, but the tonal discrepancies between them have actually been increased." Doug Snowell, a

ringer at St John's said: "We are particularly annoyed about the tenor. It is the tenor that makes a ring of bells. When any bell is out of tune it sounds mournful instead of joyous." Kate Hoey, Labour MP for Vauxhall, protested to English Heritage. "The bellmaker's intention in 1825 must have been to have the bells ringing properly," she said.

A spokeswoman for English Heritage said: "We try to keep the original historic character of the bells in terms of sound and fabric. We decided that what would be acceptable was some minor readjustments to the top notes so we could reproduce a musical scale more accurately without losing the distinctive sound of the bells."

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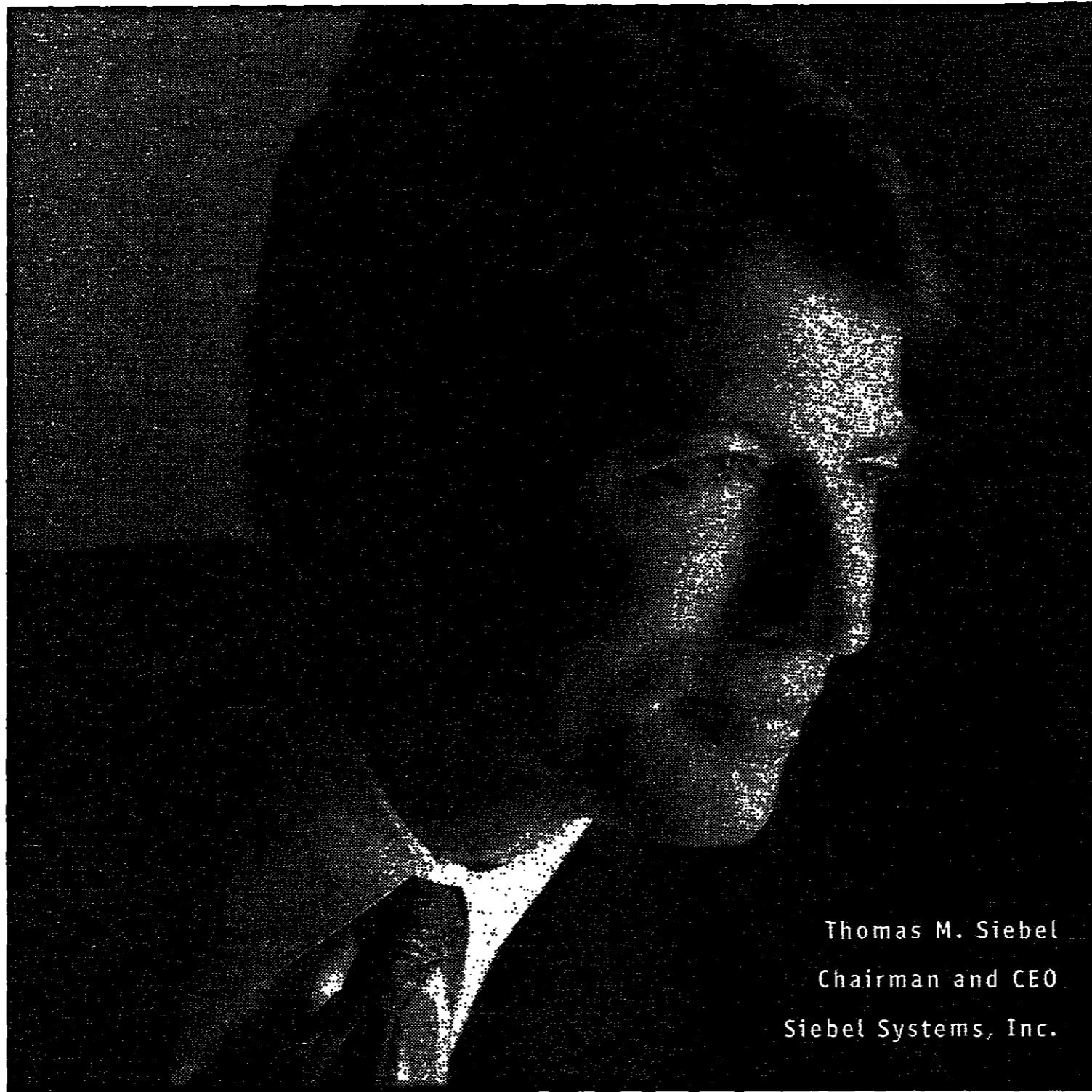
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Powell's body taken to Westminster Abbey

Alan Hamilton witnesses start of funeral preparations in the chapel of St Faith as the doors are locked behind the tourists

SHORTLY before 6pm last night, when the last tourists and worshippers had left, the body of Enoch Powell was carried quietly into an empty Westminster Abbey to lie at rest until his funeral in the adjoining church of St Margaret's this morning.

The coffin was placed without ceremony and carried in the small 13th century side chapel of St Faith, at the end of the Abbey's south transept. It lay beneath the chapel's outstanding feature, a wall painting dating from about 1250 showing St Faith wearing a crown and holding the symbol of her martyrdom, a gridiron.

St Faith's does not feature on the Abbey's tourist route, which even at this time of year

is packed to bursting during the day. But its door is never locked, and visitors seeking privacy, contemplation or quiet prayer use it regularly during the Abbey's daytime opening hours.

With the Abbey's Great West Door closed for the night, the hearse bearing the coffin, draped in a Union Jack and surmounted by a wreath of white lilies, drove to the Kloister entrance in Deans Yard at the rear of the Abbey, away from public view and watched only by a small knot of newsmen. Mr Powell's widow, Pamela, his two daughters and other members of his immediate family entered the Abbey by another entrance for a brief service of reception conducted by Canon Donald



Powell family attended a service of reception.

Gray, Rector of St Margaret's and Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons.

The coffin was borne from the hearse into the Abbey by six pallbearers from the undertakers, where it was received by Canon Gray and three red-robed Abbey marshals.

Extra security ensured that Mr Powell's coffin was not disturbed during its brief but

controversial rest in the Abbey. Officials declined to discuss details, but one said: "We are aware of the sensitivities surrounding this occasion, and will be taking the necessary precautions." Once the last worshippers from choral eveninging have left soon after 5.45, the Abbey is always securely locked and bolted.

St Margaret's was built in 1523 as a parish church by the monks of Westminster Abbey, to separate everyday parochial functions from their more rarified monastic atmosphere. It contains the tomb of Sir Walter Raleigh, memorial windows to Caxton and Milton, and a window commissioned by Henry VIII and Katherine of Aragon.

With the decline in the number of parishioners in the City of Westminster, it was taken back into the Abbey's direct control in 1973, although it is still regularly used for church services associated with the Houses of Parliament directly across the street.

This morning, as on every morning, an Abbey clergyman will conduct 8am Holy



Enoch Powell's body is taken into Westminster Abbey ahead of today's service in the church of St Margaret's

Communion in the 50-seat chapel in front of Mr Powell's coffin. The service proceeds daily whether a coffin lies at rest there or not.

Mr Powell earns the honour of what is properly called a "lying at rest" in the Abbey because he was a warden of St Margaret's. The honour is at

the discretion of Dr Wesley Carr, Dean of Westminster, and his Chapter, and is given to anyone who has had close associations with the Abbey itself or St Margaret's.

Abbey officials said last night that Mr Powell's lying at rest had nothing to do with his parliamentary career, but was

purely because of his close involvement with the congregation of St Margaret's, and the fact that he and his wife also frequently worshipped in the Abbey. "Many eminent MPs use St Margaret's because it is Parliament's local church. But that does not necessarily earn them a lying-

at-rest in the Abbey. Enoch took St Margaret's very seriously," an Abbey insider said last night.

After the funeral, Mr Powell's body will be taken later today to St Mary's Church in Warwick for a second service before his burial in Warwick cemetery.

Colleagues in peace and war pay tribute

By Andrew Pierce

THE muffled bells of St Margaret's, which has been the church of the House of Commons since 1614, will ring out before the funeral service for Enoch Powell begins at 11am. The coffin will be carried in procession across the lawn to the church.

Canon Donald Gray, the Speaker's chaplain, will officiate at the 45-minute service. Lord Biffen, the former Tory Cabinet minister, will read the address. A member of Mr Powell's immediate family is expected to deliver one of the readings.

Among the mourners will be Lord Parkinson, the Tory Party chairman, and Sir Denis Thatcher. Baroness Thatcher is unable to attend because she is on a pre-arranged speaking engagement in America. Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, will represent the Government. Michael Portillo, the former Defence Secretary, will also be present.

The second service at Warwick has been arranged by the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, which in recent years absorbed the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in which

Mr Powell served as a brigadier during the war.

The funeral cortege in Warwick will include the hearse, two cars for the immediate family, and two coaches with 80 mourners from the Abbey. Six uniformed pall bearers will conduct the coffin into the historic church which towers over the city of Warwick. Officers of the regiment will act as aides.

The address will be given by Sir Patrick Cormack, a Staffordshire Tory MP, and the Lesson from 1 Corinthians xv will be read by Powell's daughter, Jennifer. The service will be officiated by Canon David, Rector of Warwick.

The service will be the traditional funeral service from the Book of Common Prayer. It will include the Sentences and Psalm 90 sung by the choir. The hymns will include *Lead Us O Heavenly Father, Lead Us*, *My Soul, Rest of Ages Cleft For Me*, and *Abide With Me*.

Members of the regiment will sound the Last Post and Reveille. The National Anthem will conclude the service.



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Straw to publish list of Masons joining police and judiciary

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

NEW recruits to the judiciary and police service will have to disclose their Freemasonry membership for the first time under government plans to end secrecy surrounding alleged Masonic influence.

Lists will be drawn up of new judges, police and prison officers, magistrates and probation officers who are Masons, and will be placed in public libraries for inspection.

Jack Straw is also to ask the United Grand Lodge to publish regional lists of Masons who are already judges, and others working in the criminal justice system. If it refuses, as appears likely, he will create a voluntary registration scheme and, if that fails, the Government will legislate to make registration compulsory.

The registration scheme is aimed at discovering how many of the 250,000 people working in the criminal justice system are Freemasons. The measure is to apply to judges, magistrates, Crown prosecutors, the 130,000 police officers and 30,000 prison officers, as well as members of the Probation Service.

The proposal was opposed by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, who shared the judiciary's reservations about registration. But Mr Straw said: "I think it is the case that they [Freemasons] said they are not a secret society but a society with secrets. I think it is widely accepted that one secret they should not be keeping is who their members are in the criminal justice system."

He added: "Membership of secret societies such as Freemasonry can raise suspicions of a lack of impartiality or objectivity. It is therefore important the public know the facts."

The Home Secretary said that officers who served in the Metropolitan Police 20 to 30 years ago had told him that

the principal way of gaining promotion was by being a member of the Freemasons.

The announcement represents a shelving of plans for a compulsory register in the wake of a strong opposition from the judiciary, which argued that compulsion would represent an infringement of privacy and freedom of association.

Registration will apply only to membership of the Freemasons, not to other secret societies, and will operate only in England and Wales. The Secretaries of State for Scotland and Northern Ireland will decide whether to introduce similar schemes. Registration is bitterly resented by many of



Straw said the public had a right to know

the 340,000 Freemasons who belong to 9,000 lodges in England and Wales.

A spokesman said that the United Grand Lodge would consider Mr Straw's request, but highlighted the practical difficulties involved. He said that the national computer database held only the names of Freemasons and their membership of individual lodges, but not their employment.

However, he admitted that individual lodges had employ-

ment records which dated from a member's initial application form. The spokesman said that the United Grand Lodge would not give any direction to members if a voluntary registration scheme was created, but would comply if registration were made legally binding.

The establishment of a register has been bitterly resisted by judges. Lord Justice Millett, who is a Freemason, condemned the new rules as "a very silly proposal". He said: "There is no sense in it. It's an unwarranted interference in our private lives and it doesn't achieve anything." He added: "What are people supposed to do? You can't choose which judge will try your case, so what's the point?"

In evidence to a Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry into Freemasonry, the United Grand Lodge said that none of the Law Lords was a Freemason, but that two of the 39 Court of Appeal judges and one of the 96 High Court judges were members.

Yesterday's announcement was welcomed as "a big step forward" by Chris Mullin, the Labour MP who chairs the Commons Home Affairs Select Committee. But he said that the register might have to be compulsory: "We are up against some mighty vested interests here, and they might not recognise words like 'voluntary'. Therefore we have to prepare for the possibility that legislation might be required."

The announcement came only days before the United Grand Lodge appears before the committee. Commander Michael Higham, its Grand Secretary, is to appear before MPs tomorrow to answer questions about the alleged involvement of Freemasons in the now disbanded West Midlands Serious Crime Squad.

Mr Straw told the committee yesterday that he believed



The names of Freemasons joining the police will be placed in public libraries

MPs should also declare whether they were Freemasons, but stressed that he was expressing a "personal view" and that it would be a matter for Parliament, not the Government. The Prime Minister's official spokesman said he would have "no trouble" with the suggestion that ministers would have to declare Masonic membership.

A spokesman for the Police Federation, which represents 124,000 police officers, said that membership of the Free-

masons should not lead to discrimination against officers or bar promotion or recruitment. "If it is the Government's intention to introduce a register, we would seek assurances that its existence would not be abused by those who seek to obscure or circumvent justice," said Fred Broughton, chairman of the federation.

The Association of Chief Police Officers was much more enthusiastic in its backing for registration. Paul Whitehouse, vice-chairman of

the association's personnel and training committee, said that, although membership of Freemasonry was not a major issue in the police service, it was important to reassure the public that this was the case. Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said that he would be urging all his members to voluntarily register membership of the Freemasons.

Leading article, page 15

Politician named at sex abuse inquiry

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

A PUBLIC inquiry into an alleged paedophile ring involving well-known figures was told yesterday that a prominent politician was a possible child sex abuser.

Giving evidence, John Allen, a former children's home owner imprisoned for indecently assaulting boys, said the man's name had been mentioned to him by one of his former residents, who was a homosexual.

The politician is a member of the House of Lords and is an influential figure, but is not a member of the Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet.

Allen told the tribunal that he had been asked by a boy whether he knew X. Allen said that he might have met X at an hotel where he knew the man's family went, but he did not remember having been introduced.

The politician's surname has already been mentioned to the tribunal by a 34-year-old man who gave evidence last year that he had been sexually abused by him. That witness declined to give his abuser's first name, explaining that, after a magazine had linked them, his house and car were destroyed and he had received numerous threats.

Other prominent names given to the tribunal as being members or protectors of the paedophile ring are two aristocrats and a senior policeman.

The tribunal has been hearing evidence from almost 300 self-proclaimed victims and 148 alleged abusers since it began sitting in January last year. A blanket ruling by the chairman, the judge Sir Ronald Waterhouse, forbids identification of anybody unless they have already been convicted of an offence. Allen agreed to give evidence only after learning that he could be in contempt of the tribunal if he failed to appear.

His accusers see Allen as the architect of the most widespread sexual exploitation of vulnerable children yet uncovered in Britain. The trial judge said he had committed "an appalling breach of trust".

Allen told the hearing how he rose from being a hotel manager with no qualifications in childcare to run a network of children's homes in Wales and England between 1968 and 1990 called the Bryn Alyn community. He was responsible for as many as 210 children aged 9 to 21 placed by local authorities.

He paid himself £200,000 a year from the £28 million turnover his business received, all from taxpayers' money, between 1977 and 1990. His home was never formally inspected by the former Clwyd County Council, which was responsible for social services.

Allen, 56, steadfastly denied that he had abused children. He had been the victim of a widespread miscarriage of justice, he said; he was innocent of the six indecent assaults against boys for which Chester Crown Court jailed him in 1995, and his accusers had manufactured their claims.

For five hours he sat in the witness box, coughing nervously, as he was questioned by teams of barristers representing the children, local councillors and the tribunal itself; but never once did he crack.

He admitted spending £180,000 on gifts for some boys, giving motorcycles to 14 of them, hi-fis to some and money to others. He spent thousands of pounds setting up former residents in flats around the country but denied that this was to exploit them sexually.

The tribunal moved yesterday from its base at an abandoned council chamber near the Welsh border to Caernarfon Crown Court for extra security.

After the hearings finish next month, Sir Ronald will prepare a report, naming names if necessary.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18 1998

Long journey from Amazon to Oxford

Peruvian Indian born in a canoe hopes that his studies will help to save the rainforest, writes Helen Johnstone

HIS tribal surname means "he who travels", but when Miguel Hilario-Manénima was born in a canoe in the rainforests of Peru, few dreamt that his journeying would take him to Oxford. Señor Hilario-Manénima, who spent his childhood living a semi-nomadic life in a hut made of palm leaves, eating monkeys and alligators, is now studying politics and economics at Mansfield College. He is the first member of his tribe to study abroad.

He said yesterday: "It's the dream of anyone in the world to come to Oxford. But for someone from the Amazon rainforest to come to Oxford is a chance in five million. Being here is really extraordinary and I'm really honoured."

He plans to direct his studies towards helping to safeguard the rights of Amazonian people, and sees his future role as an international ambassador campaigning on their behalf. Señor Hilario-Manénima, 27, who learnt his date of birth from missionaries when he was ten, was born into the Shipibo-Conibo tribe, one of 60 living in the Amazon rainforest. His unusual birthplace came about because the tribe has no calendars to allow women the luxury of knowing when their offspring are due.

His childhood studies centred around survival, including how to fish for piranhas and hunt for monkeys and armadillos. All he knew about another world was through stories from his grandfather, who described the white invaders as dangerous men who needed the fat of Indians to power machinery.

However, a glimpse of a picture of the New York skyline in a copy of *National Geographic* discarded by a missionary was to change his life for ever. "It made me realise there was a whole new world outside and I decided I would like to see these places with my own eyes."

It unleashed an insatiable thirst for knowledge which led him on a four-day canoe journey from his village to the town of Pucallpa. He eventually found his way to Lima, where missionaries helped him to study at a seminary.

He was forced to eat leftover food from restaurants to survive, and to study under outdoor street lighting to save electricity. His efforts were rewarded with a scholarship



Miguel Hilario-Manénima at Mansfield College yesterday. He hopes to use his course in politics and economics to help to safeguard the rights of Amazonian people

to study religion in Texas, and led to a four-year course in politics at California State University. But his new life-style in America prompted him to question many childhood myths. "When I was boarding this huge aircraft I was wondering whose body oils we were using. In the tribe we were afraid of spirits and demons. When I went to the airport, through a lot of automatic doors, I'd never seen such a thing in my life. The thing that came to my mind was that demons were working the doors. I thought maybe they're not that bad if they open doors for me."

"I grew up eating monkeys and alligators, so when I was offered a dish of lettuce I was disgusted. Using Coke machines was intimidating."

In America, where he married and now has a daughter aged four, Señor Hilario-Manénima gained a Rotary International Scholarship to study at Oxford. He hopes that his year in England will provide a means of helping the 30,000 people in his tribe, whose native environment is under threat from multinational industries. He has already founded a Peruvian Amazon Indian Institute to help other members of his tribe to progress, while still maintaining their cultural identity.

"When I go back, they see me as a hero. They're really proud they've got someone who is taking their concerns to the Western world. My family and my tribe know I'm in this world to get a training to help them. When I look back on my life, I can see my name has been fulfilled."

University teaching post for TV chief

By DAVID CHARTER

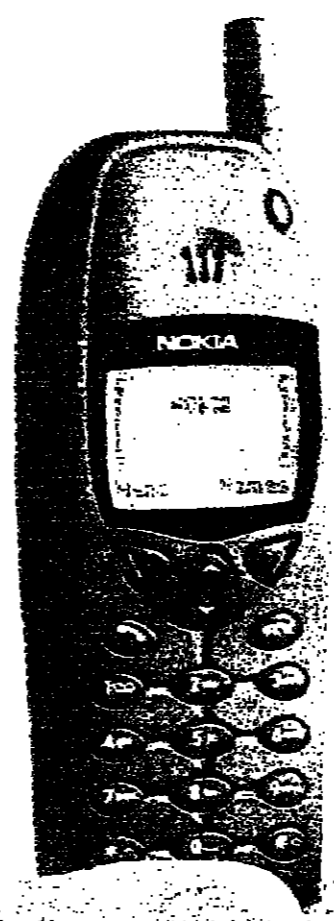
OXFORD University has appointed David Elstein, chief executive of Channel 5, as its first News International Visiting Professor in Broadcast Media.

Mr Elstein, 53, is the first of the senior media figures who will be chosen annually to deliver a series of lectures and seminars.

The five-year professorship has been created with some of the £3.1 million given to the university's English faculty in 1990 by News International, the owner of *The Times*. The money has already been used to endow the Rupert Murdoch Professorship of Language and Communication, currently held by Professor Jean Aitchison, and to fund three lectureships.

Mr Elstein plans to lecture next spring term on "the changing perception of the role of television in postwar society".

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Voyage of a lifetime ends up on the rocks

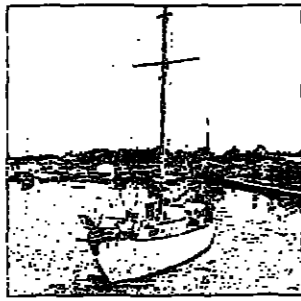
Helen Johnstone reports on a lucky escape for two British sailors

A BRITISH couple clung to a rock for ten hours and planned to eat the seals and scallions they had gone to film after their yacht was shipwrecked on a remote island in a ferocious storm off Australia.

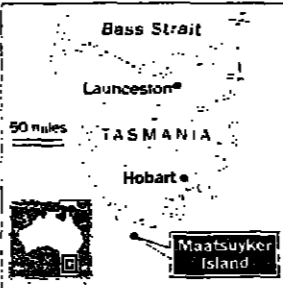
Peter and Doreen Cheek sent out a mayday signal after their 20ft yacht, *Talis II*, was buffeted on to rocks near Maatsuyker Island, 18 miles south of Tasmania. They attempted to escape in a small lifeboat, but it too was crushed against the rocks.

Mr Cheek, 62, and his wife, 58, from Whittingham, Isle of Wight, used seaweed to haul themselves from the water before being rescued by a coastguard helicopter ten hours later. The couple, who were uninjured, wrapped themselves in rough grass and each other's arms to stay warm.

Their daughter, Sue, said her father, an experienced



Talis II at Coves and, right, where the trip ended



it was so dark and we didn't realise we were being dragged back, we were against the rocks.

"We both went under and came up. I grabbed hold of some of the kelp and pulled myself up on to the rocks and my wife hung on to my foot. I managed to pull her up."

At one point, a rescue aircraft flew past without spotting them. Eventually they were seen by a lighthouse keeper on Maatsuyker. He informed the search and rescue base at Canberra.

David Gray, a spokesman for the rescue service, said: "They are extremely lucky to be alive. The yacht was destroyed."

The couple were halfway through a five-year voyage. Mrs Cheek said: "We were really enjoying ourselves. We referred to it as our venture holiday. Now we've lost everything except the clothes we are standing up in."

yachtsman, had been building the boat for the past 22 years. His mother, Hilda Cheverton, 85, said yesterday after speaking to him by telephone from her home in Newport, Isle of Wight: "We are so relieved and it was so good to hear his voice again. He sounded absolutely devastated."

"When I picked up the phone, all he could say was 'Mum, mum, mum.' He said

that he was fine in body, but absolutely blown away in spirit."

The Cheeks' ordeal began after they anchored off Tasmania to film seals and scallions. The wind suddenly veered and started to blow onshore. Mr Cheek, a former lorry driver, said: "I decided that the best thing to do would be to clear out of it — to drop the anchor and go. Before we knew where we were, because



Doreen and Peter Cheek, who spent 22 years building the yacht for the voyage

Fishermen rescued from raft in storm

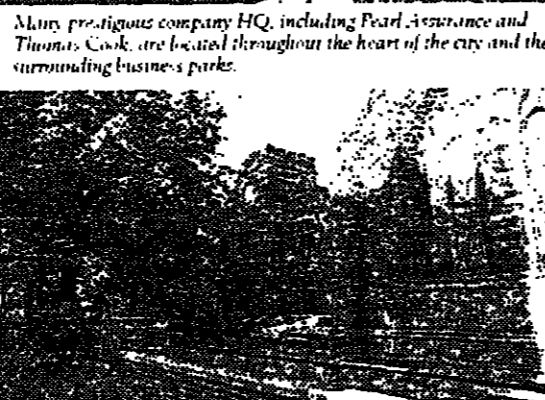
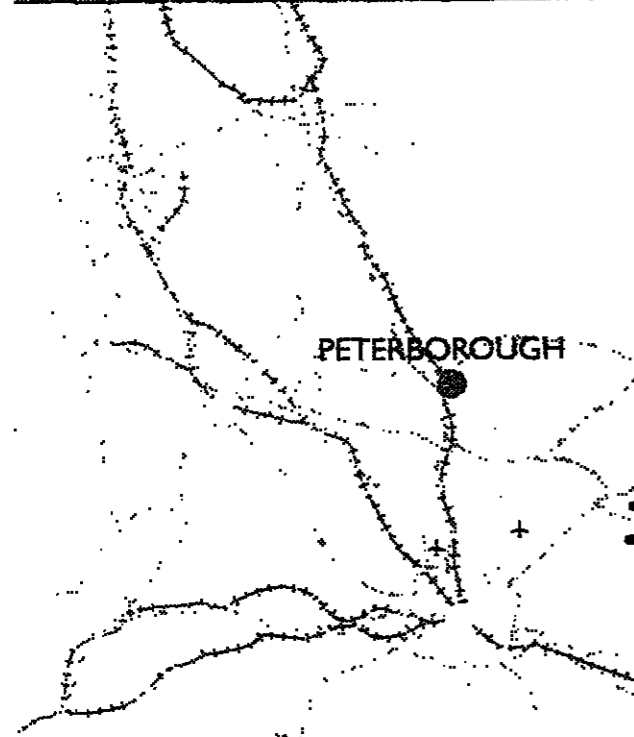
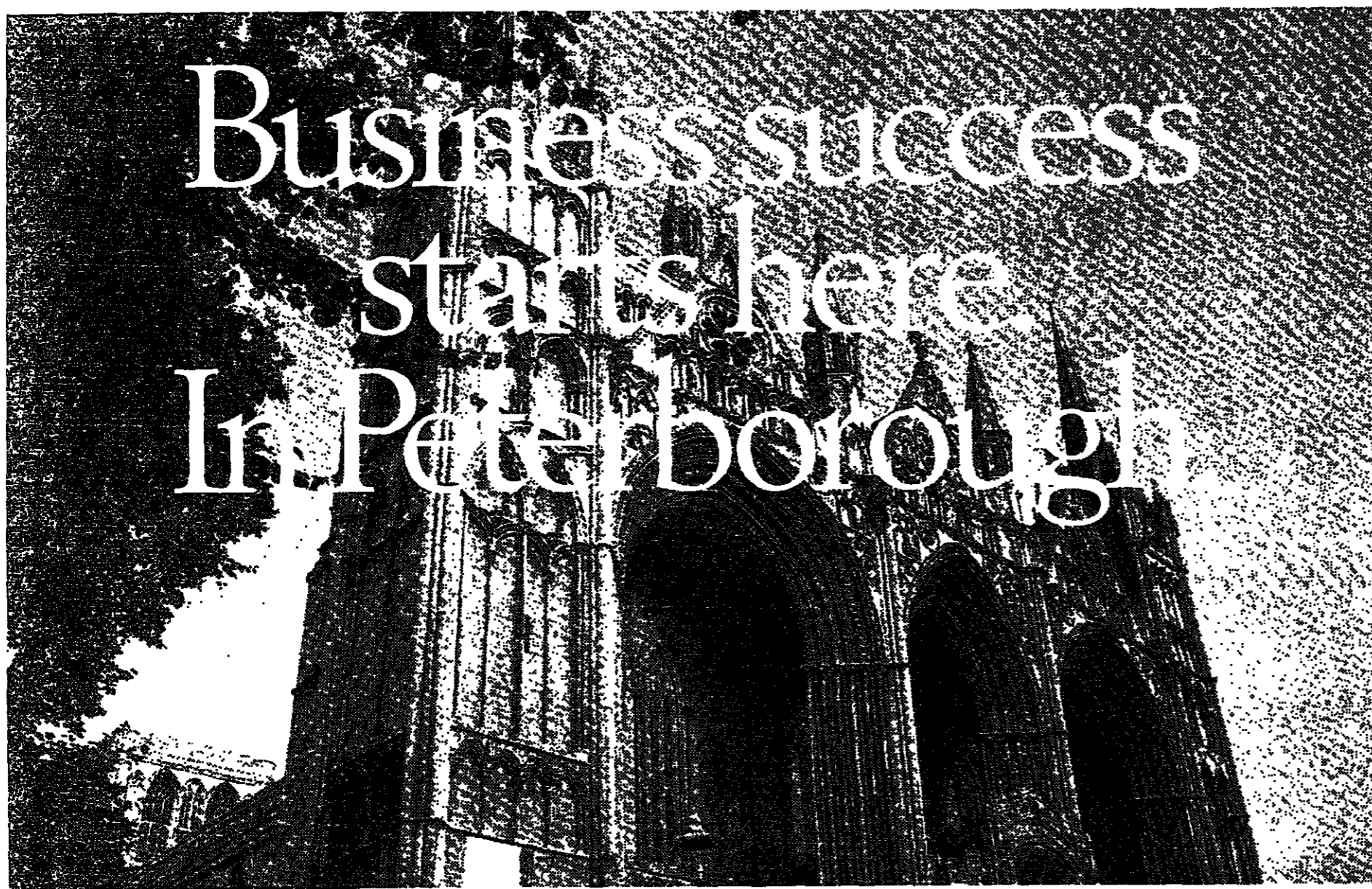
FOUR fishermen were rescued from their liferaft during a North Sea storm by an RAF helicopter.

The rescue began at 8.40pm on Monday when the crew of the Fraserburgh-registered *Ternacia* alerted coastguards as their vessel started sinking 115 miles northeast of Aberdeen. Coastguards said the men took to the liferaft when the *Ternacia*, which eventually capsized and sank, developed a dangerous list.

A helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth in northern Scotland and three rescue vessels from the nearby Ekofisk oilfield were sent to the scene. An oilfield helicopter was also alerted.

After the rescue, which took place in a force 8 gale, the men were flown to Aberdeen. A coastguard spokesman said: "We are delighted the crew are all safe and well. The helicopter crew did a tremendous job in treacherous conditions."

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Pearl fisher faces trial for killing mussels

By Gillian Harris
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN is due to appear in court next month accused of illegally fishing for pearls in the River Spey. It is believed to be the first such case in Britain.

The woman, in her thirties, faces three charges of contravening the Wildlife and Countryside (Scotland) Act by killing or injuring freshwater mussels in search of pearls on July 18 last year.

Her case, at Inverness Sheriff Court, is seen as an attempt by Northern Constabulary to protect the prized mussels, which used to flourish in most Highland rivers but are now almost extinct because of over-fishing. It is now illegal to take mussels from the riverbed without a licence.

Last summer, police embarked on Operation Necklace to stop the amateur pearl fishers, who kill mussels by cracking them open to see if a pearl is growing inside. The police were supported by Scottish Natural Heritage, estate workers and river bailiffs.

Until the 1970s, pearl fishing was legal in Scotland. Indigenous travelling people, called the Summer Walkers, made their living trawling the rivers and selling the pearls they found. They formed a close-knit community with their own customs and language. Beurla Reagsird. While the men fished for pearls, the women would call at grand houses with a tray of the milky-coloured gems.

In 1967 Bill Abernethy, the country's best-known pearl fisher, unearthed a 44-grain pearl from the Tay. It was then worth £11,000 and is now valued at £100,000.

His find attracted hundreds of pearl fishers to Perthshire. They dredged the riverbeds until there were no freshwater



Bill Abernethy, finder of pearl worth £11,000

mussels left. The industry, which had thrived on a small scale for many years, could not survive the influx of pearl hunters, who left the blue-black shells of dead mussels lining the riverbanks.

Freshwater pearls begin life as grains of sand, which pick up a lustrous coating as the shells grow. The shells can take ten years to reach full size, which can be six inches long by four inches wide.

To the inexperienced eye, it is impossible to tell whether there is a pearl inside, which is why amateurs rip them open. Traditional pearl fishers, however, know from the shape of the ridges on the shell and they then extract the pearls using tweezers, which does not harm the mussel.

Eddie Davies, 67, who is thought to be Scotland's last traditional pearl fisher, no longer makes a living from scouring the riverbeds. But he is saddened by the demise of the freshwater pearls. "My great-grandfather used to fish the Highland rivers every summer. The pearls were our livelihood, but they are scarce now. Soon they will be extinct," he said.



Discarded shells from freshwater mussels that have been killed by amateur pearl fishers

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Suncreams may cause cancer, say scientists

FROM NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR, IN PHILADELPHIA

SUNTAN lotions may do more harm than good, giving people a false sense of security that they are protected from skin cancer, scientists said yesterday. Some products could also trigger malignant melanomas.

Two American researchers told the American Association for the Advancement of Science's annual meeting that sunscreens may fool people into believing they were safe from developing malignant melanoma. In the same session, John Knowland of Oxford University said that some sunscreens on sale in Britain contained a chemical that broke down in sunlight, releasing highly active agents that could damage DNA — the first step in initiating cancer.

However, it was difficult to avoid such sunscreens, as manufacturers were not obliged to declare whether their products contained the material — Padimate-O — which absorbs sunlight.

The incidence of melanoma is growing rapidly: in 1935 the

risk of dying from it was 1:1,500, but within two years it will reach 1:75, a 20-fold increase. Yet this had occurred, Marianne Berwick, an epidemiologist from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, said, when exposure to the sun was diminishing.

People were now more likely to work indoors and were exposed to the sun only intermittently. Chronic exposure to the sun protected against melanoma because it thickened the skin. The loss of such protection could help to explain the rise in cases.

Her studies failed to show any protective effect of sunscreens. "After examining the available epidemiological evidence and conducting our own large study, we have found no relationship between sunscreen use at any age and the development of melanoma." Sunscreen protected against sunburn, perhaps leading people to believe that it would also protect against melanoma. However, some sun-

screens might not. One reason for that, said Richard Setlow of the Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York, was that many sunscreens blocked the transmission of the ultraviolet light that caused sunburn — UV B — but did not block the longer wavelengths — UV A — which could be more powerful in causing melanoma.

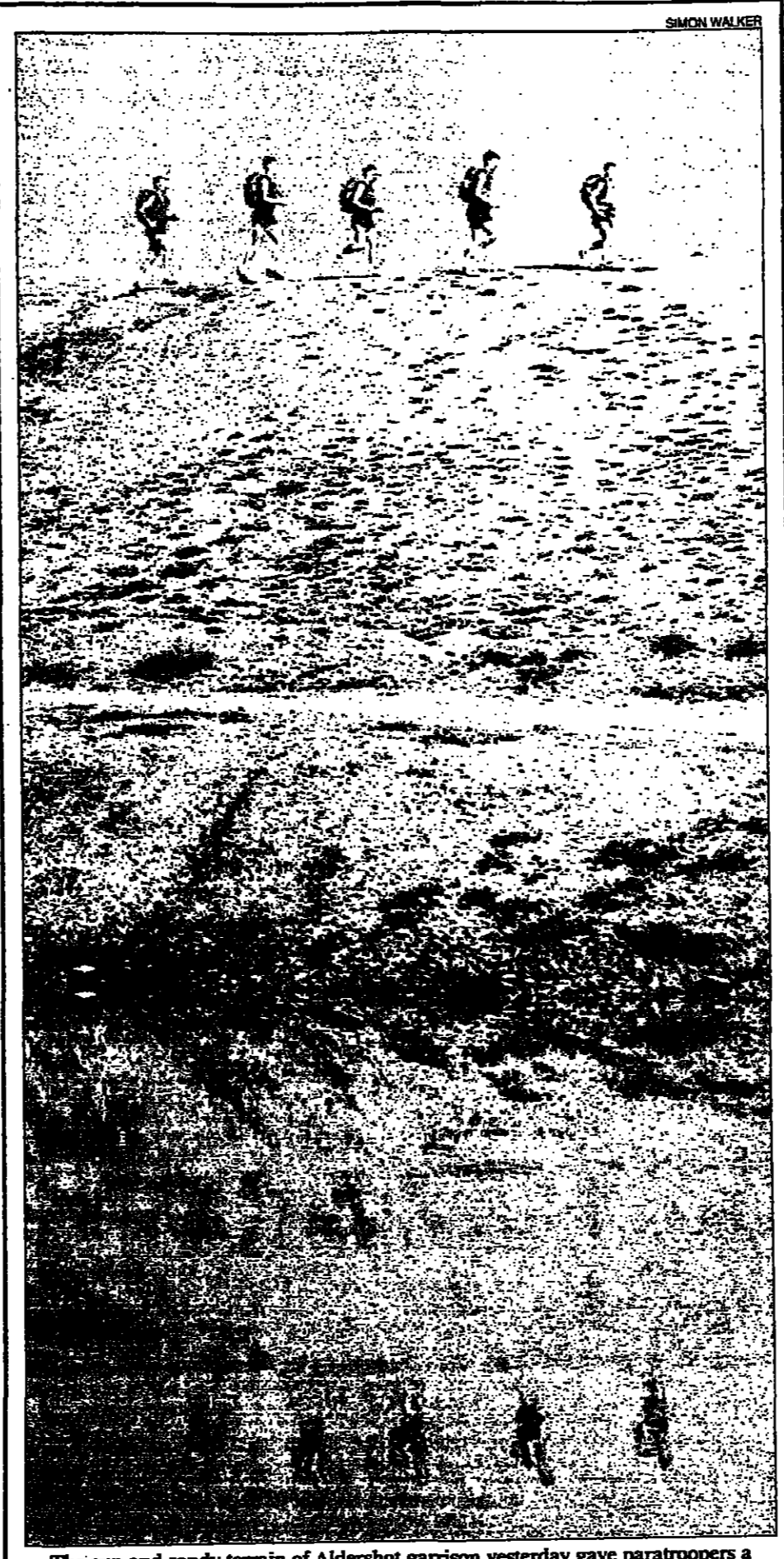
"About 90 per cent of sunlight's melanoma-causing effect may come from UV A and only 10 per cent from UV B," he said. The fact that people who used sunscreens could spend longer in the sun without getting burnt meant they got a greater UV A dose — increasing the melanoma risk.

Dr Setlow's warning may not apply so strongly in Britain as it does in the United States, because some of the sunscreens available in Britain do protect against UV A. But Dr Knowland said that studies had failed to show any decreased risk of melanoma from using sunscreens.

He was critical of the use of Padimate-O, and the fact that it did not have to be declared by manufacturers. The only guidance was to look out for sunscreens that said "PABA-free" on the label. PABA was not identical to Padimate-O but was closely related, he said.

Dr Berwick said that genetic susceptibility to melanoma was by far the most important risk factor. Those with red or blond hair and lighter-coloured eyes were at greatest risk, as were those with numerous moles.

Dr Setlow reached his conclusions after studying the effect of ultraviolet light on a breed of fish that lacks most of the genes needed to protect against melanoma. Exposing them to light showed that UVA wavelengths were ten times as effective in causing melanoma as the shorter UV B. But UV B is between ten and 100 times more likely to cause sunburn.



The sun and sandy terrain of Aldershot garrison yesterday gave paratroopers a gentle taste of things to come in the Marathon des Sables, a 143-mile race across the Sahara. The six-man team will begin the six-day race in Morocco on March 29

Punitive parking fees urged to protect rural sites

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS have urged high parking charges to stop daytrippers and holidaymakers swamping beauty spots in their cars. Councils will be told to use money raised from the increased parking fees to improve bus services to the tourist sights.

The idea is part of an attempt to cut unnecessary leisure driving and is expected to be included in a transport White Paper to be published in May. Glenda Jackson, a junior Transport Minister, yesterday called on holidaymakers to take the train or bus rather than the car, and to cycle and walk more.

Ms Jackson recalled travelling to childhood holidays in North Wales by train. "I thoroughly enjoyed them and we went all over the place," she said. But the AA accused her of having an outdated view of public transport.

"Her idea that travelling by train will be more beneficial for people who are loaded to the gills with suitcases and buckets and spades is impractical in reality," Michael Johnson, of the AA, said. "It is all very well for her to recall journeys she had as a child, but since then many services no longer exist."

Forecasts suggest that traffic in many rural areas is likely to double over the next 30 years. Several national bodies, including the ten national parks, the National Trust and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Birds, are drafting plans to provide better public transport.

Roger Higman, of Friends of the Earth, said: "When you get large gatherings of people in the countryside, that creates enormous traffic pressure, which is what people in the cities are trying to escape from. Ministers need to ensure that the same charges are introduced county-wide so that one town or attraction doesn't lose out to another charging less."

Government advisers say that, unless action is taken, journeys to scenic spots such as the Lake District may have to be rationed.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Iain Roy £1.7m for paralysed soldier

A soldier who was paralysed from the neck down during training has received £1.74 million from the Ministry of Defence in an out-of-court settlement. Iain Roy, 26, was a private in the Royal Logistics Corps when he fell head-first into a shallow pool. He needs 24-hour care at his home in Forres, Moray.

Pupils in crash

Twenty-two pupils were injured when two coaches collided at Kings Langley, Hertfordshire. Three suffered whiplash, a fourth a suspected broken ankle. The rest suffered bruising and shock.

Player's trial

The trial of Vinny Jones, the Wimbledon footballer who is accused of attacking a neighbour, was fixed for June. Mr Jones, the team's captain, was not present at St Albans Magistrates' Court.

Bomb site

The bomb disposal expert who detonated a 1,100lb German Fat Boy is to be honoured by Chippenham, Wiltshire, which hopes to name a new school at the site after Captain Pete Shields.

Bread line

Sunblist has launched a phone line to recover three million bread baskets. Lost trays, which have been used as lobster pots and sleds, cost it £4.5 million a year. After a month it will prosecute.

Sex offenders ask to join database

FORMER sex offenders have asked the Home Office if they can be included in the national DNA database, so that they can be quickly cleared when new offences occur, a Home Office forensic scientist said in Philadelphia yesterday.

David Werritt, director of research and DNA services at the Forensic Science Service, said: "I get letters from previous offenders, and particularly sexual offenders, who would actually like to go on the database so they can be routinely eliminated from inquiries."

Under present legislation, he had to turn them down. There was no provision to include

volunteers on the database, which contains samples from 260,931 people, he told the association. The database is achieving 300 to 500 matches a week between samples taken from a scene of crime or suspects, and those on the database. Dr Werritt said that 80 per cent of the matches resulted in guilty pleas.

William Shields of the State University of New York criticised the way the FBI achieved matches using mitochondrial DNA, which is passed unchanged from mothers to children. He pointed to evidence that this DNA can vary within an individual, between hair or skin samples,

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'Back down or we'll hit you hard'

Cook tells Saddam the consequences of shunning diplomacy

By Nicholas Watt and Holly Newton

ROBIN COOK declared yesterday that Britain would press ahead with its diplomatic efforts to resolve the Iraqi crisis, but he gave warning that Saddam Hussein would face a "massive military response" if he refused to back down.

Opening the Commons debate on Iraq, the Foreign Secretary said that Britain did not want to take military action and "would willingly stand down our forces" if diplomacy worked. But he told MPs: "Saddam should not doubt our resolve, nor should he doubt that in the event of military action his military powerbase would be hit hard. The air power which is now in place in the Gulf is substantial."

Mr Cook said Britain believed that Saddam was unlikely to "retaliate" with chemical or biological weapons. But he added: "As in 1991, he should be in no doubt that if he were to do so there would be a proportionate response."

Mr Cook said that the Commons debate was taking place at a critical moment in the confrontation with Saddam. Britain was in favour of the proposed visit to Baghdad by Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary General, to try to reach agreement to allow the UN weapons inspectors (Unscoms) full access to weapons sites.

The Foreign Secretary said: "I am optimistic that we can secure an agreed authority for the Secretary General to travel to Baghdad. I cannot express the same confidence to the House about the prospects for his success in Baghdad. That will depend entirely on whether Saddam is willing to take seriously the visit of the most senior UN official and whether Saddam is ready to recognise that any agreement must be fully consistent with the UN resolutions."

Mr Cook said that if Mr Annan returned empty-handed then "we are reaching the point of last resort".

Asked by Tony Benn (Lab, Chesterfield) whether Britain would press for another resolution of the UN Security Council before launching any strikes, Mr Cook said that he could not guarantee when the four other permanent members of the Council would do. But he added: "We do want to see a further resolution in the Security Council."

Mr Cook insisted that Britain's "bottom line" was to secure an agreement that would give the inspectors the right to do their work with no restrictions and no time limits. "We draw the line there

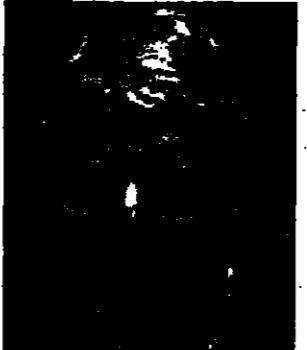
HOUSE OF COMMONS

because Unscoms' job is to prevent Saddam acquiring weapons that could wipe out whole cities. A gutted Unscoms could not do that job."

Mr Cook paid tribute to the inspectors for halting Saddam's long-range missile programme, which could have threatened Europe, and for dismantling his nuclear programme. "Through a process of inspection and verified destruction the Unscoms inspectors have demolished more weapons capability than was ever destroyed by the allied forces during the Gulf War."

The inspectors, however, had been less successful in dismantling Saddam's chemical and biological weapons. "The germ and nerve-gas weapons which Saddam is known to covert would be lethal to large populations. The volume on which Saddam hopes to produce such weapons is on such an irrational scale that it leaves frightening questions over his intentions."

Mr Cook said that the inspectors had been thwarted



Robin Cook telling MPs yesterday that Britain's "bottom line" was an Iraqi agreement for weapons inspectors to do their work unrestricted

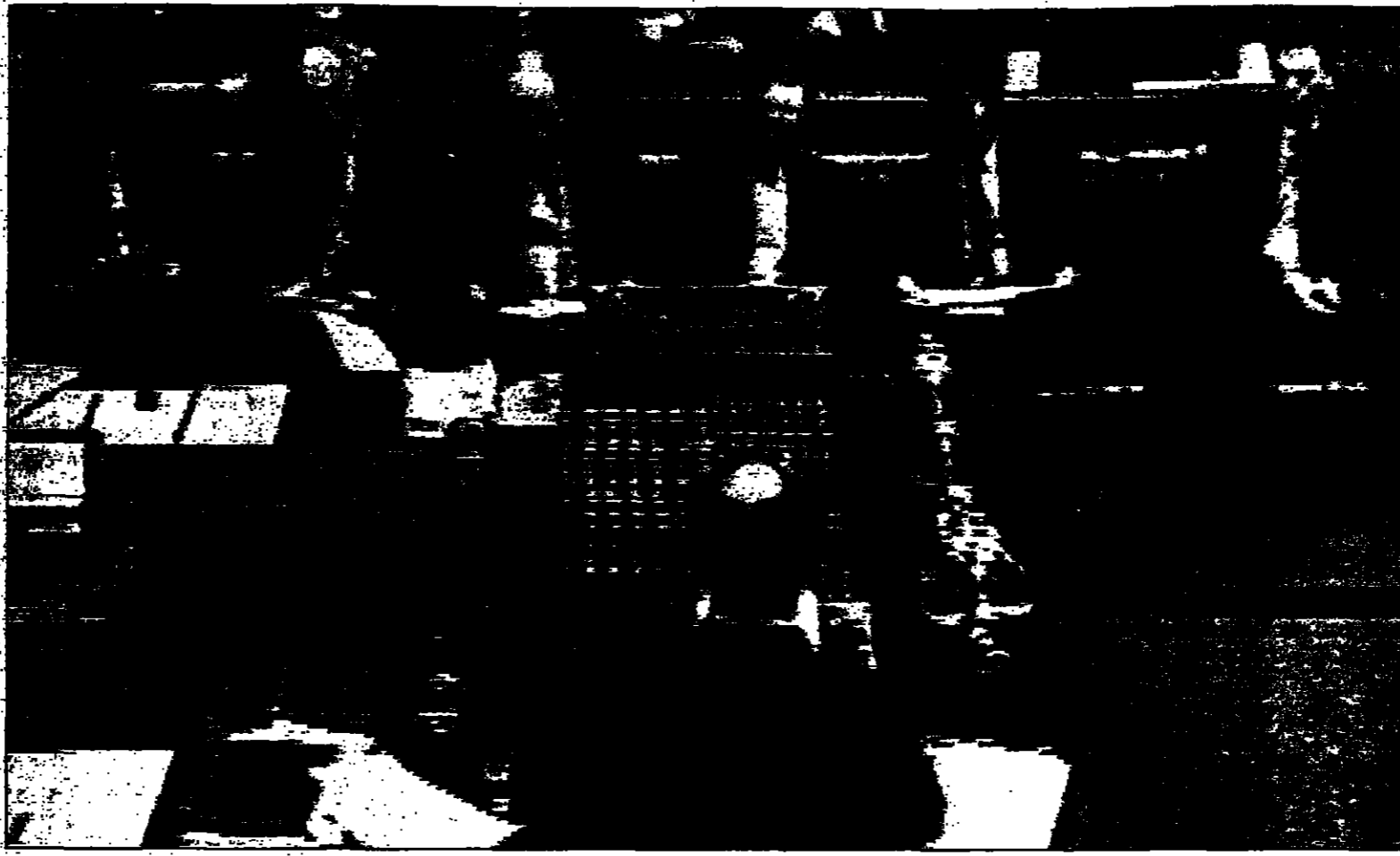
to emphasise that Britain did not regard the people of Iraq as a foe. "On the contrary, Britain has continuously been in the lead at the UN to increase the oil-for-food programme. I am pleased to tell the House that we intend to table before the Security Council this week our resolution more than doubling the volume of that programme."

He concluded his statement by saying that Saddam must not win, because of the military threat he posed and because the authority of the UN must not be flouted. "If Saddam Hussein were now to be permitted to set aside all those decisions of the United Nations, and if we were to walk away and allow him to do so with impunity, then there would be no point in invoking the power of the UN the next time we are confronted by a dictator threatening the security of his region."

Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, offered strong support for the Government. "We support the stand the Government have made, we support their effort to find a diplomatic solution and to keep the military options open," he said.

Mr Howard insisted that the UN resolutions, which require Saddam to allow Unscoms to inspect suspected weapon sites, represented the clearly expressed will of the international community. "It's not just an abstract question of enforcing Security Council resolutions, it's also about preventing a dangerous dictator acquiring the means to destroy whole populations."

Paul Flynn (Lab, Newport) intervened to ask Mr Howard to apologise for being a member of a Government in



Robin Cook telling MPs yesterday that Britain's "bottom line" was an Iraqi agreement for weapons inspectors to do their work unrestricted

the 1980s that had treated an "evil dictator as a trusted ally". To jeers from the Labour benches Mr Howard replied: "We now know much more than we knew then."

Mr Howard voiced concern that some Cabinet members were making statements that appeared to be contradictory. "Let there be no confusion or uncertainty in our objectives; let there be no doubt or ambiguity about them."

John Major, (C, Huntingdon), who was Prime Minister at the time of the Gulf War in 1991, gave his backing to the Government and said that force should be used if Saddam refused to back down. On the use of force he told MPs: "I don't like it — indeed, I hate it. But I know that it may have to be done. That, as I understand it, is the Government's position. If so, it deserves support."

Mr Major said he supported the Government with reluctance because "the situation is fraught with danger". But he added: "If diplomacy were to fail, then doing nothing is not an acceptable option."

He urged the Government to "exhaust every diplomatic option before considering the use of force". Of course a diplomatic solution is the preferred option. No sane person would willingly wish for anything else, if it is available. I hope that if agreement can be reached and Kofi Annan goes to Baghdad, that he will be successful. I think it's absolutely essential that the Government continues to use all our diplomatic resources to explain our policy and enlist support from friends across the Middle East."

Mr Major insisted that the present crisis was not a re-run

of the Gulf War when the mission was to expel Saddam from Kuwait. He said that the issue today was "to prevent the danger of a dictator developing chemical and biological weapons and using them perhaps over a wide region."

Mr Major issued a powerful plea to Israel not to retaliate if it is attacked by Saddam. "I hope Saddam will be warned of massive retaliation if he should attack any third country, including Israel — and those countries, including Israel, should be assured that massive retaliation will come from countries other than themselves. I hope that in these circumstances, difficult though the decision would be... that the Israeli Cabinet would leave retaliation to other people, as they wisely did in the early 1990s."

Mr Major concluded by saying that the world faced a miserable and dangerous predicament. "This is no time for jingoism. Only a fool goes into battle smiling. But if diplomacy fails, the Government is faced with unpalatable choices."

Gerald Kaufman (Lab, Manchester, Gorton) congratulated those Labour MPs who had backed the Government's position. "I utterly fail to understand what is going on in their heads," he said.

Saddam Hussein had murdered, tortured and gassed countless numbers of his own citizens and inflicted huge damage on Kuwait and Iran.

"There are many dictators in the world. There is no government in the world today whose record of murder of other populations and whose record of murder of their own population compares remotely with that of Saddam Hussein. He has violated every single one of the United Nations Security Council resolutions that have been passed since August 2, 1990."

Mr Kaufman said that those resolutions, including a requirement that Iraq allow inspections of its weapons sites, would provide authorisation now for military action by America and its allies. It would be "laudable" but not necessary to seek further clearance from the UN.

"If we do not take action now, whether diplomatic action to require him to conform to those conditions, or military action in the absence of his readiness willingly to conform to them, we will only have to act later, when it will be even more difficult and even more dangerous."

Mr Kaufman said that any force used should be "swift, definitive and conclusive".

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on foreign affairs, agreed that there was no legal reason for any further Security Council resolution before military action began. There could be "no compromise" over the principle of unrestricted access by UN inspectors to Iraqi weapon sites. "As a last resort, I accept that we should be prepared to use military force."

He told MPs that the issues at the heart of the crisis could have been resolved long ago. "The rehabilitation of Iraq could have begun and the condition of its people could have been improved. What it is that stands in the way of that today is the same as has stood in the way since the end of the Gulf war and that is the unconscionable transgression of Saddam Hussein."

Tony Benn (Lab, Chesterfield) said that MPs were deceiving themselves if they believed that diplomatic initiatives could now prevent the use of force against Iraq. "The reality is that innocent people

will be killed if the House votes tonight to give the Government the authority for military action."

Mr Benn, who backed an amendment opposing the use of force without the explicit agreement of the UN Security Council, said there was no doubt that Saddam was a brutal dictator. His denial of access to UN weapons inspectors was indefensible.

But, he said: "The first victims of the bombings that I believe will be commenced within a fortnight will be of innocent people, many if not most of whom would like to see Saddam removed."

He argued that a military attack would help to keep Saddam in power. "Are we such fools that we think if we bomb other people they will crumble, and yet when they bomb us, it strengthens our

resolve?" There was no world support for a military strike. "This is an Anglo-American preventive war... We are sitting here as if we were still the Empire, only fortunately, we have a bigger brother with more weapons than we do."

Tom King (C, Bridgewater), who was Defence Secretary at the time of the 1991 Gulf War, said that MPs must make "abundantly clear" their support for the Government's position. The present crisis was not a re-run of the last war with Iraq but it was "unfinished business", he said.

"Anybody who is familiar with the problems of bombing in the Gulf War knew that there was not going to be a hugely successful programme of destruction. At that time, we knew relatively little of the dispositions within Iraq."

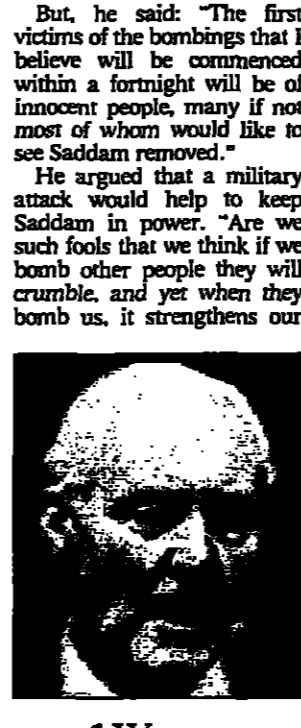
He said that far more precise information was available now about the sites where weapons were held. "At the end of the day, one had to recognise that, if all other options fail, this is not a situation in which the world can walk away."

Nicholas Soames (C, Mid Sussex), a former Armed Forces Minister, said that Britain should support military action by America against Iraq. But such action would harm British interests in the Middle East and he urged the Government to improve Britain's relations with the Arab world.

He added: "Military action is not an effective substitute for UN weapons inspectors actually being on the ground and having unrestricted access."

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Simon Jenkins, page 20
Leading article, page 21



6 We are sitting here as if we were still the Empire
Tony Benn

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Hamas vows to retaliate for US strikes

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

A DANGEROUS dimension was added to the Gulf crisis yesterday when Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, threatened to attack targets inside Israel if the United States and Britain bomb Iraq.

"We will not stand with our hands tied if the Iraqi people and their children... are subjected to US military attacks and we will answer this in our special way, and that is by hitting deep into the Zionist entity," Hamas, the largest militant Islamic group, said in a leaflet distributed in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank city of Ramallah.

The leaflet, considered genuine by Israeli and Western security experts, said: "We consider this a continuation of our holy struggle against the Zionist enemy. This is serious and not a joke, and you will soon realise the truth of this." Although the main Hamas

ISRAEL

weapon against targets inside Israel has been no-warning suicide bombs in crowded venues. Western security sources said that the possibility of Hamas extremists smuggling in anthrax or other nerve agents via Jordan from Iraq could not be ruled out.

For some years, one scenario in the continuing war against Islamic extremism has been their possible future access to nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. Some Israeli sources believe that eventually that could be more likely on the black market in Europe than inside Israel, where security is always tight.

There is thought to have been only one precedent anywhere for a terrorist attack using non-conventional materials: the attack in 1995 on the Tokyo underground by a doomsday cult using plastic bags filled with sarin nerve gas, one of the chemicals

believed to be in the hands of Iraq. Twelve people died and 5,000 were injured.

Israel has called repeatedly on Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, to crack down on the Hamas infrastructure in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but has failed so far to secure satisfaction. That is one reason why the 1993 Israeli-Palestinian peace treaty is close to collapse.

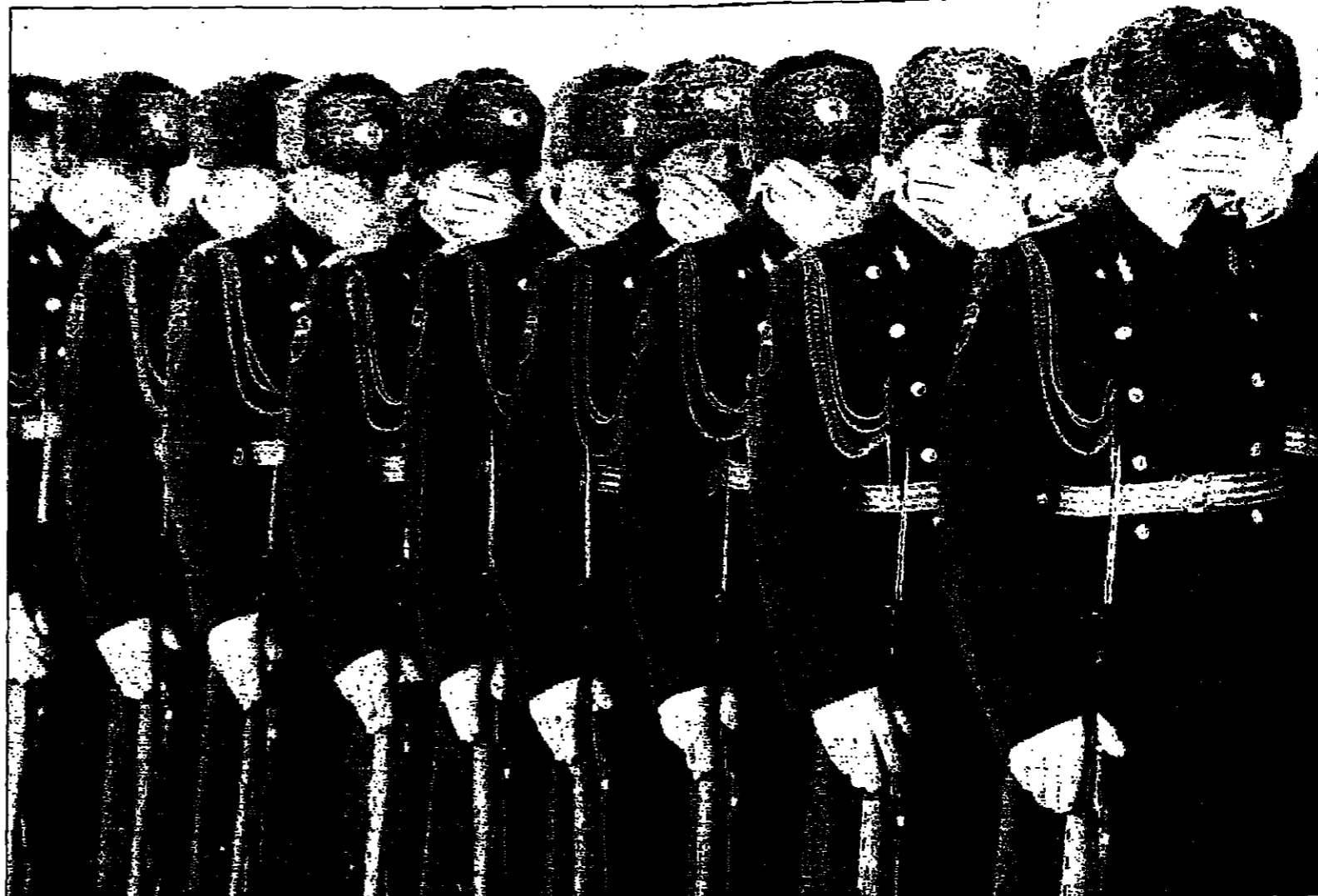
The last Hamas attack against Israel was on September 4, when eight people, including three suicide bombers, were killed in a blast at the Ben Yehuda pedestrian shopping mall in the centre of Jerusalem. A further 18 people, including two bombers, died in another attack in the main Jerusalem market on July 30.

Yesterday's warning, which greatly increased the chance of any attack on Iraq swiftly spreading violence throughout the region, came amid continuing pro-Iraqi street demonstrations in the West Bank despite an ineffectual attempt by Mr Arafat's police to have them banned.

The strength of ordinary Palestinian support for President Saddam Hussein was shown by the first opinion poll conducted among Palestinians since the latest crisis erupted. It found that most supported Iraq because they sympathised with ordinary Iraqis and rejected American policy in the region. Nearly four fifths of those polled said that if America attacked Iraq, they would support an Iraqi missile attack on Israel.

As the leaflets were being distributed, nearly 1,000 university and school students marched through the self-rule town of Bethlehem in defiance of the Palestinian Authority ban. Carrying Iraqi and Palestinian flags, the protesters shouted: "Beloved Saddam, hi! Tel Aviv" and "Saddam, we want the chemicals."

In related development, the Tel Aviv daily *Hatzot* reported that Israel has sent a message via Russian diplomatic sources that it will not launch a pre-emptive strike against Iraq.



Russian soldiers, who formed a guard of honour for Li Peng on his arrival yesterday, cover their faces with gloved hands against the biting cold

Fanatics may turn to e-mail 'bombs'

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

TERRORISM

INTERNATIONAL terrorists can now inflict as much damage using computers and information technology as they could with bombs and explosives, according to security experts in Australia.

Delegates at the Australian Institute of Criminology conference in Canberra heard that terrorists are increasingly able to use "information warfare" instead of traditional weapons to inflict extensive damage on their targets. They could, for example, hijack air traffic control systems to crash aircraft and cut power lines, or take hostage computer services such as telephone communications and power supplies. Terrorists were also increasingly able to use the Internet as a tool of destruction, for example by carrying

out "e-mail bombings" to throw computer equipment into chaos.

Russell Smith and Peter Grabosky, both security researchers, said computer systems everywhere could be vulnerable to disruption by terrorists, pranksters and extortionists and gave a warning that authorities around the world had so far failed to realise the potential for computer terrorism.

They said: "Techniques of information warfare may be employed by terrorist organisations with no less effect than the traditional bomb. Some people regard their information systems with a degree of nonchalance. It's the contemporary equivalent of leaving your home with the door unlocked."

Iraq 'on brink of backing down'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA

MOSCOW claimed yesterday that Iraq was close to backing down in its stand-off with the United Nations, while Russian and Chinese leaders joined forces publicly against the threat of airstrikes.

Speaking on Russian television, Yevgeny Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister who is spearheading mediation efforts, said he had been told that President Saddam Hussein was willing to withdraw over his ban on UN weapons inspectors at presidential sites.

"We must bring the political mission to an end," said Mr Primakov, who defused a similar crisis last year. "This political mission is to ensure that Iraq unequivocally meets the demands put forward by the world community. According to our information it is ready to do so." His remarks came as President Yeltsin and

Li Peng, the visiting Chinese Prime Minister, issued a joint statement from the Kremlin denouncing any use of force and insisting that Iraq comply with UN resolutions in return for the lifting of sanctions against Baghdad.

The statement capped a day of Iraq-dominated activity in Moscow, where the Russian leader used his annual state of the nation address to parliament to reiterate his firm stand against American and British military preparations in the Gulf.

"Russia is going to insist sternly that this country [Iraq] fulfil the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council," said the Russian leader, looking alert and fit during his half-hour address. "I am convinced we need to see all diplomatic opportunities. The use of force is the last

option and a highly dangerous one," he said.

Although most of his speech was taken up with domestic affairs, the Iraqi issue drew a noisy response from Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the ultra-nationalist leader and Iraqi sympathiser who called on Mr Yeltsin to do more.

"Boris Nikolayevich, only you can stop it. Russia has enough authority to do so," shouted the parliamentarian, who had just returned from a visit to Iraq. "You have enough moral weight which you can use to prevent war. Otherwise it will start."

Mr Yeltsin, surprised at being heckled at the end of his sober speech, replied that "there is no person in this hall who is more concerned about Iraq than me". Most of the Kremlin leader's speech was taken up with efforts to tackle Russia's huge economic and social problems, and Mr Yeltsin warned

his ministers that unless they met his targets he would replace them.

On the economy, he set out some ambitious priorities for the coming year: achieving a positive growth rate for the first time since the collapse of the Soviet Union; balancing the budget; introducing a new tax code; paying all wage arrears to state employees; attracting foreign investment; maintaining a stable rouble and keeping down inflation.

Few Russians believe that the targets are achievable in the near future. Nevertheless, Mr Yeltsin clearly hopes to impress at least one visitor to Moscow, Jean-Michel Camdessus, the director of the International Monetary Fund who arrived in Moscow yesterday. He will be looking for evidence that Russia is serious about sticking to its reform programme before he recommends approval of the next slice of a \$6 billion loan.



China's Prime Minister in Moscow yesterday

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Handwritten Arabic text: "صحة من الاصل"

Despot burnishes his image with tales of ancient Arab heroes

A central question emerges over the current debate over the use of military force in the Gulf: will the planned air raids by the US and Britain boost President Saddam Hussein's soaring popularity among Arabs? Saddam is seldom seen in public, yet his presence is felt everywhere in Iraq as he looks down from gigantic posters depicting him as a mythical hero. They were put up during the war with Iraq and never came down with its ending in 1988, when Saddam started settling scores by gassing thousands of Kurds.

The 1990 invasion of Kuwait transformed him into a hero inside and outside Iraq. Iraqis have always regarded Kuwait as their



Baghdad's tyrannical leader is burnishing the propaganda war in the Middle East, helped by the stuff of legend, writes Adel Darwish

19th province, while Arabs elsewhere resent the Kuwaitis for their wealth and arrogance.

Today Saddam is winning the propaganda war, brainwashing the masses into believing the unbelievable. Defeat is celebrated as victory. Lavish meals prepared daily with chilled champagne, imported caviar and vintage wine in each of Saddam's palaces — in case he might drop in — are

overlooked by famished people. They blame America for the starvation of their children, and applaud his stance over the inspection of his palaces as a matter of national dignity.

History is interwoven into the fabric of Arab culture and folklore illustrates how Arabs see Saddam's barbaric ways as heroic deeds.

Arab longing for a hero was

intensified both by Ottoman rule and by the colonial presence of Britain and France. But it also embodies a deeper trait in the Arab character: the desire to translate the absolute power of God into that of a father-figure.

Iraq shares a powerful tradition of popular songs about warrior-heroes. The ancient heroes also enjoyed a lavish life at a time of extreme poverty caused by war. People saw suffering as part of their destiny. Their sacrifice defending their lord was glorified in epic songs.

The Iraqis, unwittingly or not, continue to draw on the legends of heroes in their own glorification of the "Trampler of Kuwait" and of the "Hero who defies America".

Other phrases used to describe Saddam — such as "the noble lord", "the leader", "cornerstone" and "the fearful" — are taken straight from ancient epic songs.

The stories are sometimes subversive, with past events thinly veiling present discontentment; but it is only entertainment, and so the singing storytellers, who are now overshadowed by the mass media, largely escape censure.

Most tales are never-ending variations of stories about two legendary heroes, Abu Zeid and Zenati. In the minds of admiring Arabs, Saddam wears the battle colours of each hero, according to the situation.

Abu Zeid was a great warrior of central Arabia who occupied Tunisia to escape famine (a folklore precedent of Saddam's occupation of Kuwait).

Zenati, the then ruler of Tunisia, was a tyrant who locked himself in his fortified castle. The storyteller's technique is first to give dozens of reasons justifying Abu Zeid's occupation of Tunisia, and then give as many good reasons justifying Zenati's fierce defence of his land and the high price paid by his people for his stance. Saddam's defiance mirrors that of Zenati.

In the old days the crowd listening was divided between Zenati or Abu Zeid, and paid little attention to the ethical questions. They questioned neither Abu

Zenati's aggression nor Zenati's unsavoury way of beheading his subjects: only the poetry mattered. The audience identified with one hero or the other. If the storyteller misjudged his audience, and made the favourite lose, the listeners might have vented their feelings with the tables and chairs.

So the stories of the heroes are still intently listened to, and the storytellers are important. Baghdad seldom sees Saddam in the flesh, but he employs his own storyteller, a handsome newscaster, who delivers the hero's speeches and tells of his deeds. Unfortunately for President Clinton, America's favourite newscaster, Peter Jennings, could never be trained to do that.

US aims to give Annan clear message

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

BRITAIN and the United States want to keep Kofi Annan on a tight rein when the United Nations Secretary-General travels to Baghdad, probably tomorrow, to seek a diplomatic deal to end the crisis with Iraq.

British and US officials met again yesterday with their counterparts from Russia, France and China in an effort to impose strict guidelines on Mr Annan for his meeting with President Saddam Hussein.

The compromise package being offered to Baghdad involves so-called "white glove" inspections of the living quarters within the eight "residential sites" declared off-limits by the Iraqi government.

Under the deal, UN weapons inspectors would be accompanied in those residential sites by diplomats designated by the UN Secretary-General, either from the 15-nation Security Council or the 21-member advisory

Rich and poor of Kuwait fear chemical attack

AS ONE of Kuwait's wealthiest men, Fouad Abul, is concerned about the threat of chemical attack from Iraq. But while the nation's unskilled and underpaid Asian workers improvise gas masks from gauze and charcoal because they are unable to afford the real thing, his thoughts are for his two tigers, Michael and Suraya.

Seated in his opulent diwani, a meeting place owned by rich families to discuss the events of the day with friends and relatives, Mr Abul said: "Unfortunately you cannot fit gas masks on tigers. So far the best solution I have is to buy enough polythene to cover their cage in the event of a missile strike."

His concern is a measure of the credibility given by Kuwait residents, rich and poor, to Iraq's thinly veiled threat to strike against the state in retaliation for harbouring British and American jets. Muhammad al-Sabah, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, speaking in Beirut, warned Kuwait against committing a "deadly mistake" in allowing America to use its soil to launch missions against Iraq.

"This is neither a threat nor an appeal," he said after talks with Faysal Bohez, the Lebanese Foreign Minister. "Whoever opens his territories for

Protecting tigers takes priority for one wealthy Arab

Anthony Loyd discovers

the Americans to spill innocent Iraqi women's and children's blood will bear the detrimental consequences of his crime."

Mr Abul has good reason to fear Iraq's military capabilities. In the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Iraqi troops shot dead his tiger, Alawi, as well as his private herd of deer. "They also stole my boats and all my jewels," he added.

Since the liberation of Kuwait in 1991 he has rebuilt his stocks. A herd of black buck and Siberian fallow deer trotted around an enclosure outside the building (he brought in special ice-making machines to allow the latter to give birth in "natural" conditions).

Mr Abul acquired the two new tigers in 1992 and a new boat immediately after liberation. "The first thing I did as the coalition troops entered

Kuwait was to call Boston and order a new boat," Mr Abul said.

Among his glittering gold and gems are a diamond the size of a gobstopper, with a price equivalent to that of a west London house, and a customised diamond Rolex. In the face of such wealth, Saddam Hussein's invasion of eight years ago became a little more understandable.

Without question, though, among all of Mr Abul's worldly possessions, more than his Rolls Royce, his Porsches, Mercedes, Harley-Davidson or Silverwing, the tigers are his pride and joy. "Saudi princes have offered me blank cheques to buy Michael and Suraya," he said. "They have asked me to name any price I want but I cannot sell them. It would be like selling a son and a daughter."

Suraya, the more sweet-tempered of the two, is a Bengal tiger given as a gift by a friend in Bahrain. She sometimes sleeps in his arms, and wears a golden chain and medallion embossed with her name, Michael, a Siberian tiger bought from the Isle of White Zoo after six months of negotiation. It is the great-grandson of the tiger that played Shere Khan in a film version of Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*.



Fouad Abul with Suraya, one of his beloved tigers. "Unfortunately, you cannot fit gas masks on tigers," he said

The six-year-old animals dine daily on a mix of cooked meat, vitamins and an undisclosed amount of tins of Whiskas. They also have cuddly toys to prevent them from becoming bored, although Michael is prone to dismembering his

"When they lie in my arms I feel like the King of Kings," Mr Abul said. "Such animals are more clever than us. For all our technology we cannot predict anything: tornado, earthquake or war. Yet these tigers know it all, even before

it happens." They are indeed magnificent creatures and appear to have a close relationship with Mr Abul, who plays with them daily. Even so, it is hard to forget the unskilled Asians scrabbling around pathetically with

Simon Jenkins, page 20
Leading article and Letters, page 21

DIPLOMACY

council of UN Special Commission (Unscocm). Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, said Mr Annan was likely to go to Baghdad and emphasised that Washington wanted him to have "very clear instructions" from the Security Council. "We want to make sure that he has a very unambiguous message to deliver," he said.

Asides from Mr Annan insist that he is not going to Baghdad merely as a messenger. The UN chief is wary of repeating the experience of his predecessor, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, who paid a fruitless trip to Baghdad in 1991 to try to avert war. Señor Pérez de Cuellar, now retired, is said to have called Mr Annan this week to warn him against going to Baghdad with his hands tied.

Russia, China and France want to leave Mr Annan more flexibility to negotiate a diplomatic deal. But the US and Britain fear that he might return with a package deal diluting the authority of the UN weapons inspectors.

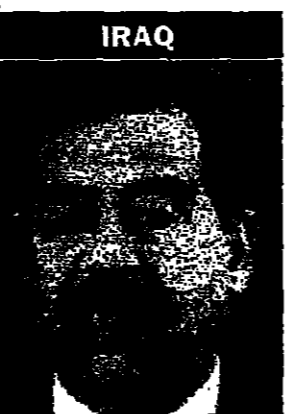
Saddam's foes draw line at assassination

BY MICHAEL BRYNON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

PUBLIC opinion in the West and in the Arab world is united in seeing a simple solution to the crisis over Iraq: kill President Saddam Hussein. Yet no Western strategist will admit even contemplating such a step. Nor, despite incitements to revolt, has the West given any help to those plotting the dictator's death.

Assassination presents formidable difficulties. In most countries it is illegal, and since 1980 it is expressly forbidden in the US as an instrument of state policy. It is a risky strategy that can easily misfire. And in the case of Iraq, the problems of locating the target, and successfully infiltrating his entourage are almost insuperable.

Apart from moral qualms, there are sound military reasons why Western leaders refuse to discuss killing Saddam. The first is that while success would be widely saluted, in Arab capitals as well as in Washington, failure would give an unscathed Saddam a political and propaganda victory. The second objection is



Saddam rarely sleeps in the same place

that, by pegging policy aims to the death of a single individual, the West immediately undercuts any incentive for a diplomatic solution. If Saddam knows that he is the real target, he would have no reason to negotiate with his would-be killers. Since the United Nations fiasco in Somalia, the West has been wary of the "Aideed syndrome" — the well-publicised attempt to eliminate the Somali warlord which ended in failure and bloodshed and discredited the entire UN operation.

Thirdly, assassination would saddle the assassins with the responsibility for political stability after Saddam's death. A main reason why the allies halted their advance into Iraq during the Gulf War was because they did not want to become enmeshed in Iraqi internal affairs or be faced with a power vacuum that they would have to fill.

It was widely assumed that Western intelligence used assassination to further its ends during the Cold War. But the documented attempts by the CIA to kill Fidel Castro led to public ridicule, and after accusations of US complicity in the killing of President Allende in Chile, Congress passed the War Powers Act which specifically forbade the CIA from plotting assassination. Since then, the US has never admitted targeting a foreigner, al-

though it was clear that during the US strike on Libya in 1986 there were hopes that "collateral damage" would kill President Gaddafi.

In general, governments do not favour assassination because it opens the way for retaliation. In a tit-for-tat with dictators, Western governments would have more to lose as their leaders are more visible and accessible.

Killing Saddam is particularly difficult because he rarely sleeps in the same place, employs a number of "doublets" and is surrounded by hundreds of bodyguards. He is said to have about 250 safe houses in Baghdad, ranging from underground bunkers to nondescript houses in residential areas to a caravan in the desert outside the city. He tells nobody where he will spend the night. Western intelligence has been unable to build up any organisation on the ground in Iraq. After the imposition of the no-fly zone, the CIA established a network of agents and informants in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq. But fighting between Kurdish groups in 1995 and the invitation to Saddam's forces to intervene led to reprisals in which almost all the agents were killed.

Apart from the logistical difficulties, the West has not tried to kill Saddam because, in the long run, the US believed this would lead to the break-up of Iraq, which it saw as a greater danger than allowing a weakened Saddam to remain in power.

Iraqi opposition groups bitterly denounce what they see as betrayal by the West. The Iraqi National Congress says that America has never given any logistical support.

In recent weeks, assessments in Washington have changed. Analysts now believe that the danger of a post-Saddam Iraq falling apart has been exaggerated. The removal of Saddam may now have become an undeclared war aim, even if assassination is still ruled out.

◀ If Saddam knows he is the real target, he would have no reason to negotiate ?

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WARNING: THIS GUIDE WILL DRAMATICALLY ENHANCE YOUR LISTENING PLEASURE

Kohl resorts to euro fiction in face of hard facts



Kohl: facing hostility in Germany over the euro

HELMUT KOHL'S sales campaign for the euro sets up its pitch in the City today. But the German Chancellor will be aware that his own voters have never been so hostile to the new European coinage: one survey shows a disapproval rate of more than 70 per cent. As a result, his Government has launched a hard sell of what may well be a soft currency. Fifteen children, including one from Britain, have been recruited to tour the Continent and test the value of the future common currency. The children are admittedly fictional: they figure in a picture book called *The Euro-Kids*, aimed at the school room. They are the soft underbelly of an intense and increasingly desperate propaganda campaign to

German voters have not been convinced by their Chancellor's efforts to sell the euro. He is unlikely to fare better in the City today, reports Roger Boyes

melt German public opposition to the scrapping of the mark. Apart from *The Euro-Kids*, there are poster campaigns, hundreds of public discussions, telephone hot-lines and full-page newspaper advertisements. For a week last year, Berlin department stores and fast-food chains used the euro alongside the mark. The mass-circulation *Bild* newspaper has been running a citizen's phone-in with Theo Waigel, the finance minister, and top bankers. "Is the Euro safe?" asked

the billboards advertising a series of articles in *Bild*. The big banks have invested the most in selling the currency: about £80 million over three years has been ploughed into advertising the euro. And still nothing moves: hostility is so high that analysts believe there will be unprecedented numbers of non-voters in the September general elections. *The Euro-Kids*, written by Rolf Schönlau, is a strangely jumbled picture of Germany's partners, a

mixture of ethnic clichés and propaganda for the under-10s. The storyline has the 15 Foreign Ministers of the European Union gathering in Brussels and scratching their heads. "Do people really want the new money which will soon be introduced in all their countries?" ask the ministers. "Will they just give up their guilders and lire, crowns, marks and all the other old coins?" The president decides: "Let the children test what people think of the new money." And so the 15 children are sent around future member states of the European Economic and Monetary Union with their fictional currency. They start, of course, in Frankfurt, where a coin dealer offers them two crowns from Salzburg, dated 1731,

in return for one euro. This cannot be a good sign for German parents nervously reading the book aloud. They can hardly credit Herr Kohl's promise to make the euro as strong as a mark. Two 18th-century coins would seem to be an overvaluation. The children wend their way around Europe: in Paris, the euro is again overvalued, buying 15 ice-creams from a man next to the Eiffel Tower. In their tour, they manage to buy a leather drinking bag for one euro, an egg, a birthday cake, a bathing cap, a tube of glue, two bull's horns and a museum visit. Only in Britain, with its wait-and-see policy on EMU, does their euro fail. As far as German schoolchildren are concerned, the country is an odd place of red buses and red

telephone boxes, populated with Sikhs, West Indians, and bowler-hatted men reading *The Times*. Throughout the book, a sinister figure in dark glasses and trenchcoat follows the children. At the climax, in Luxembourg, he reveals himself to be the finance minister of all Europe. He takes them by hot-air balloon to Brussels, but first they have to discard their ballast: pounds, escudos, francs, drachmas, guilders, lire, crowns, marks, schillings and pesetas. German schoolchildren are being given a very confident picture of the future membership of EMU. At Guildhall today, Herr Kohl will try to mimic their optimism.

Leading article, page 21

Gay workers have no right to equal benefits

A LESBIAN couple have lost their attempt to have the European Court of Justice extend equal employment rights to homosexuals. The judges said no EU law guaranteed equal treatment on the basis of sexual orientation.

The ruling was a surprise to Lisa Grant and Jill Percy because an initial finding from the Luxembourg court in September had upheld the couple's complaint that South West Trains, Ms Grant's employer, had wrongfully refused spouse's travel perks to her partner.

However, the effect of the yesterday's decision could be temporary, the judges noted, because the Treaty of Amsterdam, not yet ratified, sets the stage for new laws against a much wider range of discrimination, including sexual orientation. The European Commission said yesterday that it was reviewing options for new laws, but realism was needed since all 15 member states had to approve legislation and there were wide differences in attitudes to homosexual partnerships.

Ms Grant, 30, from Eastleigh, Hampshire, said:

A lesbian couple's fight for the same perks as others received a setback in the European Court yesterday.

Charles Bremner reports

"It is now up to national governments to change legislation. We believe this was a straightforward case of sex discrimination." Stonewall, the homosexual rights group that backed the couple, said it was bitterly disappointed. "We think it is wrong, but there is no appeal open to us," a spokeswoman said. The group would now campaign for a British law outlawing discrimination over sexual orientation, as promised by the Labour Party in its election manifesto, she said. The Luxembourg judges rejected the argument put by Cherie Booth, QC, acting for the women, that Ms Grant had suffered sexual discrimination when the railway company refused to give travel rights worth about £1,000 to her partner of two years. Unmarried partners of the

opposite sex received the benefit. In a passionate speech to the court last July, Ms Booth appealed to the judges to extend to homosexuals the force of article 119 of the Treaty of Rome, which covers equal pay for men and women. "The right to human intimacy is a basic human right," she said. The court endorsed the argument put by Patrick Elias, QC, the Government's barrister, that it did not have the power to stretch EU law into a controversial area. "Community law as it stands does not cover discrimination based on sexual orientation," the judgment said. The court made clear that it was up to governments, not judges, to push the frontiers of EU law into such a delicate area. Only a handful of states gave any form of legal recognition to homosexual partner-

ships, the judges noted. "In the present state of the law, stable relationships between two persons of the same sex are not regarded as equivalent to marriages or stable relationships outside marriage between persons of opposite sex."

Nicholas Underhill, QC, for South West Trains, said the court had clearly been conscious of the risk of oversteering its powers under the treaty. "It was a bridge too far and they weren't going to cross it," he said.

In Ms Grant's case, no sexual discrimination in the legal sense applied because the railway company also refused travel perks to partners of gay men, the judges said. The case now returns to an industrial tribunal in Southampton which had sought the court's ruling on the point of European law.

South West Trains said it would discuss the decision with the Association of Train Operation Companies, which represents all the privatised rail firms and is responsible for issuing guidelines on staff travel. "We were seeking the law's guidance for the whole industry," a spokeswoman said.



Lisa Grant, left, and her partner, Jill Percy: surprised ruling went against them

Shops get code on green labelling

By Nick Nuttall

A VOLUNTARY code to stop misleading or vague environmental claims on shop goods was issued by the Government yesterday.

Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, promised legislation to back the code before the turn of the century. He said that the Government would consider a green squad, backed by local authority trading standards officers, to check if shops kept to the code.

Consumer groups welcomed the code but said there remained absurdities and the need for swift legislation. The National Consumer Council, whose research prepared the way for the code, called for a mandatory green labelling scheme for cars.

Ruth Evans, director of the council, said not one vehicle on sale in Britain or the Continent used an approved scheme. It was "nonsense to have eco-labelling for bed linen and cat litter, but not for cars".

Shoppers find European eco-labels on a few products, she said, "but these have an obscure symbol whose meaning is never explained."

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Shoppers find European eco-labels on a few products, she said, "but these have an obscure symbol whose meaning is never explained."

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Novelist acclaimed by leaders dies at 102

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

ERNST JÜNGER, the 102-year-old German writer who built bridges between German and French culture, died yesterday in his lakeside Bavarian home.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, mourned the novelist and essayist, recalling the friendship between himself, Jünger and the late French President Mitterrand.

Jünger served as a lieutenant in the First World War and was wounded 13 times. "The overpowering wish to kill winged my steps," he wrote; "fury squeezed bitter tears from me." That frank recognition of the excitement of war, expressed in books such as *Storm of Steel* brought him a big following in the inter-war years. The book remains a critically acclaimed work.

George Steiner called it "the most arresting piece of writing to come out of the First World War".

"The Nazis tried to win him to their cause, but he refused to enter parliament on a Nazi ticket. Instead, he served, in a rather protected role, as an army officer in occupied France."

A long essay entitled *The Peace*, updated after he became aware of German atrocities, concluded that Hitler had failed to understand that Europe could not be unified by force. The updated version appeared in the spring of 1944 and was circulated among army officers, including Field Marshal Erwin Rommel and other senior officers close to the French President at Verdun. It testified to the importance



Mitterrand, then President of France, visits Jünger in the summer of 1993. Jünger was considered one of Germany's most controversial writers

of the battlefield in the Kohl-Mitterrand vision of Europe.

Both the German and French leaders experienced war from the sidelines. Herr Kohl was too young to fight and remembers only the death of his brother, the devastated landscape and the hunger. Mitterrand's last speech

abroad, in Berlin, dwelt on his wartime imprisonment and his admiration for the honesty of his German guards. Jünger gave both statesmen a taste of the real thing. Describing the battle of the Somme, he depicts the dead "dissolved into a greenish fishmeal that glowed at night through their tan

uniforms. When stepped upon, they left phosphorus tracks..."

In his later years Jünger preferred the company of beetles to that of human beings: his home contains a collection of 40,000 sketched insects. He remained a controversial figure, with many critics attacking his lack of commitment to the anti-Nazi resistance and his aristocratic disdain for democratic politicians, apart, that is, from Herr Kohl and Mitterrand who made a pilgrimage to his home. "I hate him, not as a German but as an aristocrat," Jean-Paul Sartre wrote.

Police 'did not shield paedophile' in Belgium

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

MARC DUTROUX, the man at the centre of Belgium's child murder scandal, benefited from the incompetence and corruption of police and prosecutors, but there was no evidence that he was shielded in his alleged paedophile crimes, the Belgian Parliament reported yesterday.

After an 18-month investigation, the parliamentary inquiry painted a damning picture of Belgium's criminal justice system. It concluded that Dutroux and his alleged accomplices had escaped detection thanks to gross official incompetence and their roles as police informers. However, it said it found no evidence to support suggestions that Dutroux, who is charged with abducting six girls and murdering four, "benefited from protection from the police, judiciary, government or political world".

The findings are unlikely to quell speculation in Belgium over the supposed complicity of influential people in the paedophile murders, other unsolved crimes and cases of high-level corruption.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Jets are grounded after Taiwan crash

Taipei: Taiwan yesterday grounded the China Airlines Airbus fleet in the hope of finding out what caused the plane crash that killed 205 people. The twin-engine A300-600R wide-body jet crashed in a fireball while trying to land at Taipei's international airport in heavy fog on Monday.

All 196 on board, including 13 from the same family, died. The other fatalities were killed on the ground in what was Taiwan's worst air disaster.

At a makeshift crash-scene morgue, grieving relatives in plastic protective smocks tried to identify the remains of loved ones. Some sought succour with Buddhist monks who set up shrines at the crash site, burning incense, beating gongs and chanting. (Reuters)

Iranians honour US flag

Tehran: For the first time in nearly two decades the American flag was displayed in Iran with respect rather than as a US wrestling team captain's trophy. A crowd of about 500 Iranian men clapped for the Stars and Stripes as the enthusiastic response than received by any of the other 17 teams except that of the host country. The flag has been burnt many times in Tehran in the wake of the 1979 Islamic Revolution. (AP)

Abuse allegations studied

Colombo: Sri Lankan police have started investigating allegations that Arthur C. Clarke, the science fiction writer, left was a paedophile. Four persons named in a British tabloid which published the allegations have been summoned and questioned at police headquarters in Colombo, a senior police official said. Officials declined to say whether Mr Clarke, who denied the allegations made in the *Sunday Mirror*, would be questioned. (Reuters)

'Stop Li Peng' petition

A petition presented to President Jiang Zemin of China urges that Li Peng, the Prime Minister, should not be named National People's Congress chairman at its next meeting because of his role in the Tiananmen Square killings in 1989 (Jonathan Mirsky writes). The petition was organised by Professor Ding Zilin of Beijing's People's University whose son died in the Square.

Kaunda faces 'treason' trial

Lusaka: The Zambian Government said that it would charge former President Kaunda, right, with misprision of treason on the ground that he had concealed his part in last October's failed coup. Dr Kaunda made a brief court appearance and the state prosecutor, said reporters that the charge would be put to him today. Misprision of treason means hiding knowledge of treasonable intent. If convicted, Dr Kaunda, 73, would face up to life in prison. (Reuters)

Protest greets Burma leader

Manila: Senior General Than Shwe, Burma's ruling junta leader, was met by pro-democracy demonstrators when he arrived here for a state visit (Abby Tan writes). Filipino members of the Free Burma Coalition, which supports Aung San Suni Kyi, Burma's democracy leader, held up banners saying "Stop the killings now" and "Free Burma, not free trade".

Monk with a lottery habit

Bangkok: A Buddhist monk has been so successful in predicting winning lottery numbers that bookmakers in Thailand will pay only half the winnings to punters who follow his predictions (Andrew Drummond writes). Phra Khru Sangkharak is being investigated for breaking monastic rules by encouraging vice.

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Food that fuelled Cold War

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S diplomatic efforts in the Middle East began clumsily to judge by an account of a Moscow banquet in 1962 when a delegation from Saudi Arabia was treated to pig's tongue, sausage and roast pork.

This and many other revelations about Soviet foreign policy initiatives appear in the newly published memoirs of a former Kremlin maitre d'hôtel, Akhmed Sattarov, who served under Nikita Khrushchev and Leonid Brezhnev from 1959 to 1972. Over that period he witnessed or participated in a series of diplomatic gaffes, breaches of etiquette and hideous displays of drunkenness and excess. In excerpts from the memoirs carried in yesterday's edition of the newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, Mr Sattarov recalls how Khrushchev was given to making ranting speeches after heavy drinking bouts, sometimes blurring out state secrets.

On such occasions, the Kremlin staff would be pursued afterwards by KGB men who would pledge them to secrecy. The Kremlin waiters were carefully chosen by the KGB and underwent special training at a closed school, where for two years they were taught English, German, French and Italian and instructed on the finer points of international culture, protocol and etiquette. All to little avail, it would seem.

During the delicate peace negotiations that led to the Camp David accords, an Egyptian delegation visiting Moscow walked out of a banquet in disgust after a waitress, stooping to pick up a plate, inadvertently thrust a breast into the delegation leader's nose.

‘A waitress inadvertently thrust a breast into the delegation leader's nose’

Mr Sattarov also witnessed the famous finger-bowl incident involving Khrushchev at a dinner at the White House in Washington in 1964. Spotting the crystal fingerbowls provided after the first course, Khrushchev speared the lemon slices from the water with a fork and devoured them. An alert waiter, realising what was going to happen next, whipped the bowl away before Khrushchev could drink down its contents, thus sparing President Lyndon Johnson the obligation of having to do likewise.

Khrushchev, he says, had no concept of table manners and would constantly use the wrong fork. But he believes that matters have improved little since then. Russia's current leaders have not yet mastered the art of polite eating and are often to be seen pouring wine to the



Khrushchev, pictured with R.A. Butler in 1966, was given to making ranting speeches after drinking bouts

after the signing of the India-Pakistan truce in Tashkent. He was ordered to organise a grandiose banquet. Unfortunately, Lal Bahadur Shastri, the Indian Prime Minister, died immediately afterwards.

“I only just escaped being executed for his murder,” Mr Sattarov writes.

“In the end it turned out that he didn't die from poison, but a heart attack, and I was released.”

Reprisal fears as boys die in India blast

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

FOUR boys playing cricket were killed in a bomb blast yesterday in the southern Indian city of Coimbatore, which has become the target of a string of explosions designed to whip up religious hatred during the general election.

It happened in a Muslim section of the city, adding to a series of bombings four days ago that killed more than 50 people and was blamed by the authorities on two Islamic organisations. Both have since been declared illegal.

There are fears that yesterday's explosion could be the start of reprisal attacks in the textile town, which has been tense for weeks after several clashes between Muslims and Hindus. Another theory is that the bomb went off prematurely while being transported.

The attacks have demonstrated how religious animosities can worsen quickly, leading to large-scale killings at times of heightened political tension. There are about 130 million Indian Muslims, a leaderless, divided community that feels vulnerable in a largely Hindu country. Any sustained violent campaign by Islamic organisations could provoke a fierce backlash by extremist Hindus.

Muslims fear that the hardline Bharatiya Janata Party will come to power and carry out its pledge to abolish Muslim personal law, which permits the taking of four wives and enables Sunnis to divorce a wife by declaring three times “*talak*” (“I divorce you”).

Leading politicians, hinting at Pakistani involvement, blame a “foreign hand” for the Coimbatore trouble. Yesterday's attack came a day after the first round of polling in the second general election in less than a year — a day that confirmed the collapse of law and order in the northern state of Bihar, where politicians' hired thugs went on the rampage.

Several dozen people died, but there is no accurate figure: such is the chaotic nature of a state on the edge of anarchy. There were reports of about 50 election-related killings elsewhere in the country during the first day of voting. Tens of thousands of security personnel are now moving around the country to be in position for the next round of voting, on Sunday. The poll results should be known on March 3. **□ Poll rerun:** The Election Commission ordered fresh voting in more than 500 polling centres in Bihar after balloting was marred by violence and fraud. (AFP)



Grachev, dismissed by Yeltsin in 1996

Russian general in crash scandal

By ROBIN LODGE

RUSSIAN media reports have suggested that General Pavel Grachev, a former Defence Minister involved in a car crash last week, was travelling with a known prostitute, who was killed in the crash. He is said to have left the scene before police arrived.

General Grachev was being driven to a village near Ryzan, southeast of Moscow, accompanied by an army colleague and bodyguard when his four-wheel-drive vehicle swerved to avoid an unlit stationary lorry, left the road and rolled over.

A woman was thrown out of the vehicle and then crushed by it as it turned over. She was identified as Svetlana or Yelena Musatova, 33. The vehicle had apparently stopped to pick her up at the roadside a few miles back.

The general, who had cuts, bruises and concussion, is said to have left the scene immediately.

He was appointed Defence Minister by President Yeltsin in the first Russian Government after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

The general's unstinting loyalty to Mr Yeltsin ensured his survival for years despite corruption allegations and the catastrophic direction of the war in Chechnya. He was eventually dismissed in June 1996, just before the crucial second round of the presidential election.



Draskovic said Serbia will shed pariah image

Protester claims role of Serb power broker

A YEAR after he led street demonstrations against Slobodan Milosevic, Serbian protest figurehead Vuk Draskovic admitted yesterday that he had done a deal with the socialist dictator and Yugoslav President under which their parties would form the new Serbian Government.

In a rambling press conference, Mr Draskovic portrayed himself as the new power broker of Serbian politics. He justified his apparent volte-face by claiming that his Serbian Renewal Movement's programme had been adopted by Mr Milosevic's socialists, and that Serbia was about to fall into line with the Dayton Peace Accord and shed its pariah image. In a government of national unity, he said, the old schism of Yugoslav life between communists brought up on Tito's partisan doctrine and their royalist “Chetnik” rivals would be forgotten.

Mr Milosevic's socialists lost their majority in last September's elections, yet

Two former opponents have struck a deal
Tom Walker writes

remained the largest single party. For the past five months the politicians have bickered over a new left-right coalition that critics say is doomed to failure.

The rewards of joining Mr Milosevic will become apparent as the new government portfolios are distributed next month, but sources say Mr Draskovic hopes to become Yugoslav foreign minister. His wife, Danica, is rumoured to want the job of Serbian information minister, and her brother, Veselin Boskovic, might take over at the reconstruction ministry.

Mr Draskovic said that the double-headed eagle would be reinstated as the

national symbol, and that ideological holidays would be scrapped. The party's programme also includes co-operation with the European Union and America, handling Serb war crimes suspects to The Hague (Mr Draskovic believes there is insufficient evidence to convict them) and the internationalisation of talks on the troubled province of Kosovo.

Mr Milosevic's overbearing presence as Yugoslav President threatens all these breakthroughs, and Mr Draskovic conceded that their previous attempts to do business were disastrous. “They broke deals with me faster than I drank coffee in my office,” he said.

□ The Hague: Two Bosnian Serbs pleaded not guilty to war crimes charges yesterday but thanked US diplomats and Nato troops to whom they surrendered. Miroslav Tadic, 60, and Milan Simic, 37, are the first Bosnian Serbs to turn themselves in to the UN war crimes tribunal. (Reuters)



Milosevic overbearing presence threatens plans

Australian summer hits 49.4C

Perth: Australia's highest temperature for almost 20 years has been recorded at a sheep station in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. The Weather Bureau said yesterday the temperature soared to 49.4C (120.9F) on Monday at Nyang Station, 300 miles north of Perth. It was the hottest day recorded

in Australia in February, the bureau said. Station owner Gary Smith, who lives alone on the 31,000-acre property, said: “It's so hot I'm getting stressed, along with the emus and kangaroos. I can't afford air-conditioning and the only way I can keep cool is by jumping in and out of the pool.” Mr Smith said the

average maximum at Nyang this month had been 44.9C (112.8F). The extreme heat had killed almost 1,000 sheep and lambs in his stock of about 10,000. Nyang Station is part of the Weather Bureau's official network monitoring network. (AFP)

Weather, page 24

Grateful studios set to reward ‘Titanic’ director's self-denial

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

UNTIL this week, the only person who appeared to be losing money on the film *Titanic* was its director, James Cameron. He may now be richly rewarded by two grateful studios.

In a show of self-denial that was rare by Hollywood standards, Mr Cameron waived his salary and any future earnings as director and producer of the film as its budget spiralled towards \$200 million (£122 million) last year. The move was designed to show executives that he shared their fears about the increasing costs. His decision has since made him feel “like a chump”.

With *Titanic* steaming towards \$400 million at the American box office and \$1 billion worldwide, analysts estimate that its director would have earned \$50 million so far had he stuck to the letter of his contract. Instead, his only pay has been a modest flat fee for his screenplay.

That may be about to change. Paramount Pictures and 20th Century Fox which financed the film jointly, are preparing to “do the right thing” for Mr Cameron, according to a studio source quoted in *Newsweek*.

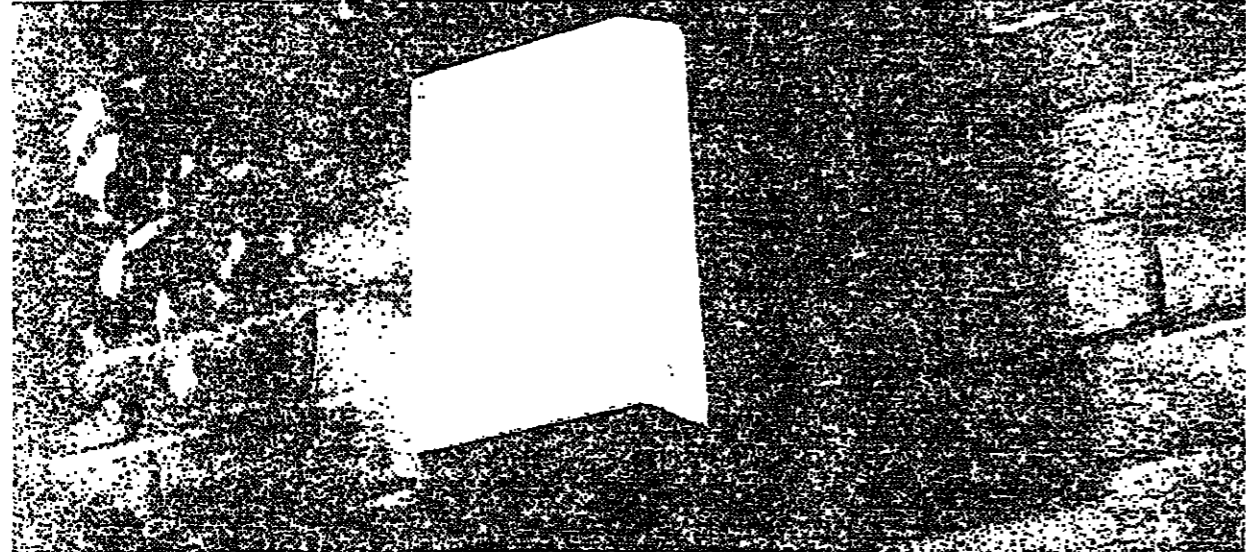
Talks are under way to reinstate his contract, but whether or not he receives the full amount, “we will do something to make Jim happy”, the source said. “We all believe it is just the right thing to do.”

Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio may also receive extra compensation for their endangered privacy as the film makes stars of them in every continent. The studios are considering giving each young actor a \$1 million bonus, *Newsweek* reported.

Such generosity is a break from Hollywood norms. Paramount, which bailed out 20th Century Fox with a \$65 million cash injection as *Titanic*'s costs soared, is notorious for interpreting financial small-print in its own best interests. *Forrest Gump*, its 1994 Oscar-winner for best film, made more than \$400 million internationally, but the studio declared a net loss and refused to pay any royalties to the author of the book on which it was based.



Cameron: decision made him “feel like a chump”



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Jealous student gets life for killing sex rival

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A FORMER naval cadet, accused of ordering her boyfriend to kill a sexual rival while all three were 16 years old at high school, was found guilty yesterday of capital murder by a jury in Fort Worth, Texas.

Diane Zamora, now 20, was sentenced to life imprisonment, as the prosecution did not seek the death penalty.

After deliberating for six hours on Monday, the jury of seven men and five women needed only a few minutes yesterday morning to deliver the verdict that Zamora was guilty of murdering Adrienne Jones.

Jones was killed in December 1995 by Zamora and — allegedly — her boyfriend David Graham, who will stand trial separately for murder later this year.

According to the prosecution's account, accepted by the jurors, Zamora flew into a jealous rage when Mr Graham revealed that he had had sexual intercourse with Jones.

The couple then lured Jones, a vivacious classmate described by her teachers as an outstanding student, to a secluded road in the countryside outside Fort Worth.

Her nearest town, Zamora hit her on the head with a dumbbell. The prosecutor then described what happened next, quoting from Mr Graham's confession to the police, made after his arrest: "Adrienne somehow crawled through the window and, to our horror, ran off. She ran into a nearby field and collapsed... I knew I couldn't leave the key witness to our crime alive. I just pointed and shot."

The couple were arrested in August 1996, after Zamora hinted to her room-mates at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, that she had "killed somebody back home". Her room-mates alerted the police. Eventually both Zamora and Mr Graham — who was then at the US Air Force Academy — were arrested.

In her own statement to police, read out in court, Zamora said: "I think I got hysterical and I screamed, 'Just do it, just do it. I remember being scared, so I reached in the back where I knew the weights were... to try to hit her with it. I missed. I was just too nervous and my hands were just shaking too much.'"

"Probably the third time I did hit her on the head with



Diane Zamora, pictured in court before the verdict. Described by the prosecution as a 'liar and sociopath' she was sentenced to life



Jones: an outstanding and vivacious student



Graham: had sex once with Adrienne Jones

the weight. Zamora said that her victim then crawled from the car, collapsing a few yards away. Mr Graham followed her, she said, and returned to say that Jones was dead. "Are you sure? No, she's not," Zamora was quoted as saying. "I told him to shoot her."

Taking the stand during the trial, Zamora denied that she had murdered Jones, insisting that she had made her statement to the police under pressure.

She also said that the idea for the killing had been Mr Graham's alone, and that the

violence meted out to the dead girl had come exclusively from him. The prosecutor, however, described her as a liar and a sociopath.

Yesterday, after the verdict on Zamora had been delivered, members of Jones's family made emotional "victim

impact" statements. Bill Jones, the father, said: "We all loved and enjoyed Adrienne very much. We all looked forward to a life with her. This has been taken away. We will never know what heights she would have risen to because of this animal act. And we shall

have to wonder for the rest of our lives." After concluding the case, Judge Joe Drago said that he would hand over the impending trial of Mr Graham to another judge. He said he was "physically and mentally drained" by the trial.

Explanation of Clinton scandal 'not simple'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON faced an unusually frank aside from his own press secretary yesterday. He admitted there was probably no simple explanation of the American leader's relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

Mike McCurry, the spokesman who has spent weeks deflecting ever more lurid questions about the alleged sexual affair, said it could be a very complicated story that would not be easy to explain.

"Maybe there will be a simple, easy explanation," Mr McCurry said in an interview with the Chicago Tribune yesterday. "I don't think so because I think we would have offered that up already."

"I think it's going to end up being a very complicated story, as most human relationships are. And I don't think it's going to be entirely easy to explain maybe."

Mr McCurry has said repeatedly that he is "out of the

loop" on the Lewinsky story, but was said by White House officials to be "adopting a strategy of telling the truth slowly."

Mr McCurry said he was "shocked" by the media's media coverage of the story. "It's a bit like 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it', but this is a case where it is broken, and it's broken bad."

One reason why Mr Clinton had been reluctant to offer details of his relationship with the former White House intern, except to deny that it was sexual, was a concern that some might use the information as a lever to make others twist the truth, he said.

White House lawyers were concerned about the pressure on aides from those involved in the investigation, he said.

"We are not in a position to provide a full and complete account, so the art is to make sure that everything we say is

truthful and credible," he said, adding: "And that we do no disservice to the truth in the time between now and whenever we can provide a fuller account."

The press secretary said there was so little privacy at the White House that many aides found it hard to believe that Mr Clinton could have conducted an affair with Ms Lewinsky or anyone else.

"This is the White House at the end of the 20th century," he said; "not only a fish bowl, but the Klieglights (spotlights) are on all the time. It is extraordinary. There is no zone of privacy."

Polls yesterday showed that Mr Clinton's approval ratings had started to slip from the record highs they hit in the immediate aftermath of the Lewinsky reports. Those who believe he lied under oath about having an affair jumped from 52 to 62 per cent, according to USA Today.



Rauschenberg refused to pay commissions

Artworks seized to recover £3m debt

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN

FIFTEEN works by Robert Rauschenberg, America's pre-eminent Abstract artist, have been seized from a prominent museum in Texas by bailiffs and put up for sale by an irate German dealer to whom the artist owes \$5.5 million (£3.3 million).

The works — a group of paintings, photographs, collages, prints and sculptures — are in the possession of Alfred Kren, the dealer, who has put up a notice saying "For Sale, 15 Rauschenbergs" outside his warehouse in Rothwell, near Houston.

The seizure of the works comes after a legal action started last year by Mr Kren's company, the Austin Art Consortium, against the 72-year-old Mr Rauschenberg, alleging that the artist had not paid commissions on some paintings sold by the consortium.

When a letter informing him of the legal action was sent to Mr Rauschenberg, the artist scrawled the word "Refused" on the letter and returned it to the court clerk. The case was begun, but Mr Rauschenberg, who adopted a posture of complete aloofness, did not appear in court. The outcome was a judgment for \$5,581,500 against the artist, including \$3,713,000 in punitive damages.

Mr Kren secured a court order empowering the Deputy Constable of Houston to seize "properties whose value is commensurate with the sum of monies owed". Spectacularly, the officials chose to seize "properties" on display at The Menil Collection, Houston's most prominent museum, where there is a retrospective exhibition of Mr Rauschenberg's work. As bewildered museum-goers looked on, bailiffs at the weekend carted off 15 of the works on display.

It is likely that the seized works, which have not been named, will be worth more than the sum Mr Rauschenberg owes Mr Kren. The artist, a founder of the Pop Art movement, enjoys considerable cachet. Last year, at the auction in New York of the Ganz Collection, his painting, *Red Interior*, sold for \$6.3 million.

\$3bn compensation offer for breast implants

New York: Dow Corning, once the world's largest producer of breast implants, has offered \$3 billion (£1.8 billion) to tens of thousands of women, several of them British, in compensation for illnesses claimed to have resulted from the operations (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

Although the offer is substantially higher than the company's last one of \$2.4 billion in August 1997, lawyers for the claimants have rejected it as "inade-

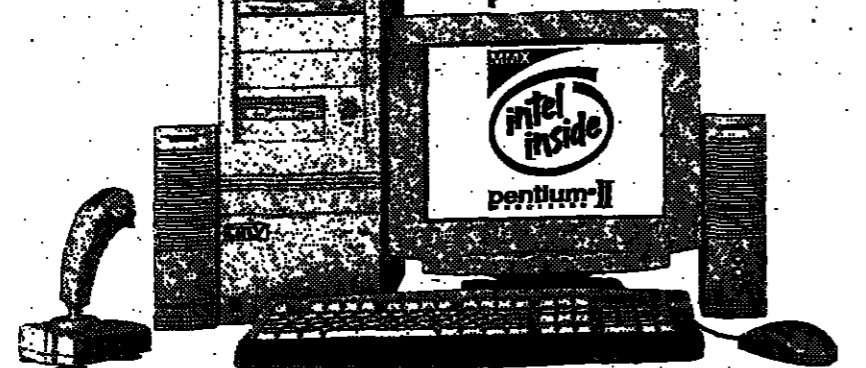
quate". About 177,000 women worldwide claim their health has been harmed by Dow Corning's silicone-gel implants.

Ed Blizard, a claimants' lawyer, said: "We're disappointed that they've offered another proposal that really offers inadequate compensation to women, and falls also to offer that in a timely way." Most women, he says, will receive only about \$10,000 each. Women whose implants ruptured would receive \$50,000.

The offer is part of a plan submitted to a federal bankruptcy judge. The company has been trying since 1995 to emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy, for which it filed after being flooded with lawsuits from women who used its silicone-gel implants. The federal Government forced the devices off the market in 1992. Studies of thousands of women have revealed no evidence that implants cause ailments.

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'Women succeed by being smart and getting on with it'

It is high time our party stopped talking about 'The Women' as if we are from another dimension, another species. Conservative women deserve to be taken seriously, not just regarded as useful at election time and helpful in village-hall kitchens.

Peta Buscombe intoned these words at the Tory party's women's conference last year, shortly after she became vice-chairman with responsibility for women. Peta — the name is an advantage — "It slightly makes me an honorary man" — is 43, smart, blonde-haired with striking, deep-set eyes; the product of an expensive boarding school, you'd think. In fact she failed her 11-plus and went to a secondary modern (Surrey in 1966 had not yet gone comprehensive), although she made it to a grammar school sixth form.

Let us make one thing clear at once. Peta Buscombe is against quotas. "No woman worth her salt wants a job she's been given just because she's a woman. Positive discrimination backfires; it causes resentment. The House may be a men's club but, as at the Bar, women succeed by being smart and getting on with it. Gwyneth Dunwoody is right: if they can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen."

But much needs doing to change attitudes of local selection committees. Peta was once told by a committee that they couldn't choose a woman because there was a woman (Virginia Bottomley) in a neighbouring constituency. "Imagine saying that to a man."

Peta (née O'Flynn) joined the Young Conservatives at 16 to acquire a social life. Her family was not political, but it was argumentative. Her father, a wine merchant, was the kind of man who, if someone said "Wonderful morning!" would ask "Why?" She was one of four sisters. Their elder brother, Christopher, was killed in a car crash in the early hours of New Year's Day at the age of 21.

Peta Buscombe has a mission: to encourage more women to take up the Conservative cause. But she doesn't believe in positive discrimination. Interview by Valerie Grove

when a lorry jackknifed. Peta, his closest sibling, was in her A-level year; she still misses him. "And when you have children yourself you realise what parents go through, losing a child." Then her mother died of cancer at 59.

Peta first got to know the Houses of Parliament when she was at the Inns of Court School of Law, and joined the Conservative Association. MPs and peers would invite them to suppers and parties. She just felt conservatism was right: "A caring meritocracy, where those who work hard and save hard are rewarded."

She left the Bar (still owed fees by some law firms, 20 years later) to become a legal adviser to the dairy trade, and later to the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising. But her career was fragmented by having an investment banker husband (now a company chairman) who kept being sent to New York. She held a powerful post with Barclays International in New York, but in time motherhood claimed her: she has a daughter of ten and twin boys.

In 1990 they moved from Fulham to Berkshire, in order to find a parking space outside their home, and Mrs Buscombe became involved in Michael Heseltine's constituency of Henley-on-Thames. She was a district councillor and started holding women's forums; but though women would come to listen to Dame Angela Rumbold, the difficul-

ty she found was that women now have so many more demands on their time.

Last May she fought Slough, and (as they say) Slough fought back. Tory voters stayed at home, and Fiona MacTaggart gained a 14,000 majority. "But it was a wonderful learning curve, a test of my mettle, and the best training ground for what I do now."

The fact is, our membership base has been declining for years. But the positive result of losing the election is that we're prepared to stand back and take a fresh look at how we do things in the party. So while this is a very tough time to be on board, I'm also incredibly lucky. I've worked at the grass roots, where volunteers need their morale boosted. I'm part of that new energy. And I'm an optimist."

She has spent the past three months out on Tory roadshows, addressing activists about proposed reforms, listening to focus groups, raising awareness that the Tories have changed.

To women in their 20s and 30s, special allowances for women sound idiotic. They take it for granted that women compete on a level playing field: 60 per cent of last year's graduate intake to Schroder's Bank were women. Women's groups are outdated, and arguably marginalise women.

"Selection committees need a change of heart: many able women should have been selected last time, but some people

on these committees have no idea how to evaluate a CV — so we must devise an application form that does not divulge the applicant's gender — and some have never had a job themselves, and judge people by their own lifestyles. They still ask women: 'Does your husband know you're here? And does he approve?'

She remembers trailing through Central Park with a toddler and a twin pram early one morning when Yoko Ono jogged by, and feeling an overwhelming sense of loneliness. Many women who have had children, like her, she feels, could take to politics from a sheer longing for intellectual stimulation. She has to find several thousand potential candidates, councillors and MEPs. And she believes a political profession is easier to fit in with motherhood than many jobs, because of the recesses. Yesterday, she had Nadine (on half-term) in Central Office with her.

At home, she has Susie from the village coming in as housekeeper, working flexible hours. "But tax relief on childcare is one of my hobby-horses. We must take a serious look at the fact that childcare is paid for out of taxed income. People looking after children are very responsible, and not only does the Inland Revenue lose money on their earnings, but cash under the counter demeans them."

She believes people have failed to come forward to aid the party because "They've had 18 years of a Government that silted them. People become politicised when they don't like what's going on. Since May we've had letters from women everywhere — concerned about the tax on private pensions and killing off Tessa, and mortgage rises and student fees and rising hospital waiting lists. My job is to capture all that energy out there. We are going to win this country back."

And the colour in which to do it, she adds, is not purple but "an even deeper, richer and stronger blue."



Peta Buscombe: "Selection committees need a change of heart: many able women should have been selected last time"

They are still asked 'does your husband know you are here?'

The trick is to be young and adult

TO LOOK back, not forward is, as every columnist knows, against the first law of journalism: the words "last week" are not in the vocabulary of those of us who feel charged with the duty of reporting on what has not yet happened. But — forgive me — there I was last week, in the newspapers, looking for Valentine's cards for my children. Worse: actually buying Valentine cards for my children. This, though, isn't what I mean to comment on. I have never gone in much for Valentine cards and all that commercially orchestrated love-doveyness, so the fact that I was using what is considered a significant date in the romantic calendar to register maternal affection didn't weigh too heavily, too meaningfully or too mumsily with me. I am above or beyond that sort of embarrassment. And to tell the truth, the motivation was not spontaneous — but that is another story.

I did, of course, feel slightly odd standing there with the desperate types who use Hallmark cards to voice their deeper feelings for them, but that was only because I actually forgot, as I was rifling through the displays, that there was another reason for sending these cards, another class of recipient: an adult one. I forgot not because I am so engulfed by the current babified shape of my life (though I concede that must be part of it) but because the cards colluded with me. With the exception of a few adolescently and self-consciously rude ones, they all

could have been designed expressly to be sent to the under-fives. Teddy bears figured in about 75 per cent of them, the rest were studded with little cartoon hearts and toddler colouring-in book creatures. You may be wondering what kind of people send Valentine cards to their children. I can't help worrying about who could send this sort of stuff to an adult. Is this the sort of climate in which relationships are seriously conducted?

The burnkins-kisskins school of romance is not new, but the extent to which popular culture isn't necessarily the idea "it's clever to be stupid" but "it's funny not to be grown up".

It's customary to lament the erosion of childhood, to condemn preteen magazines for containing explicit information about sex, but there is something just as unsettling about all those women's magazines that run the sort of "Is he the right man for you?" quizzes and adolescently whiney problem pages that I remember from *Jackie* when I was about 14. But there is something strange going on in both camps. In the fashion magazines you can see pictures of women in the hot new colour, girly pink (and I can't talk I suppose, since I do, I own up, have a pink streak in my hair); whereas in any children's shop you can see endless rails of girls' clothes, which look as if they've been torn off the backs of hookers in the Rue St Denis. But we've tipped everything off balance in order to make a skewed picture seem to hang straight. And when 50 to 60-year-olds are routinely described, in print, as middle aged, it's clear that we're not even trying to cover our tracks.

It's pointless coming over all sanctimonious about the desire to be young, though. I don't want to get old any more than anyone else does (except when I think of what the alternative is). But the trick is — that glorious, focused moment — to be young and adult, not old and childish.

Nigella Lawson



Beliefs in education

a case of either/or. We all know that a good teacher makes all the difference, but the difference isn't about technique and instructions: a good teacher knows not how to teach but how to inspire children with the desire to learn. And it's such a significant difference.

But of course parents are even better placed here. They know their children's strengths and weaknesses, they love them, and moreover it is their collusion that children really want. Children will learn to read more quickly if a parent listens as they read aloud, not because the extra practice is helpful and necessary, but because the parent is always the child's ideal listener, ideal reader. And because everything important comes from the home. We all know how much better we perform when we're confident and it's the behaviour, the belief of parents that give a child confidence. This isn't necessarily "belief" in the modern, sentimental individualised sense: Asian cultures — to generalise dangerously here — believe in their children's capacity to learn and to improve themselves because they believe in betterment through education generally. This, I suspect, is more a feature of their immigrant status than their racial type, but that in itself doesn't argue against the findings.

Southall Rail Accident Inquiry

Notice is hereby given that the Health and Safety Commission has, under powers in the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act, 1974, appointed Professor John Uff, QC to hold an inquiry in public into the collision between an empty freight train and a passenger train near Southall station on 19 September 1997. The HSC has also appointed Major Tony King, OBE as Technical Assessor to the inquiry. The inquiry will be held in public and will open to discuss procedural matters at 10.00am on Tuesday 24th February 1998 at The Plasterer's Hall, 1 London Wall, London EC2. The inquiry will then adjourn until such time as the main hearings can begin. Further information may be obtained from The Inquiry Secretary, Southall Inquiry Secretariat, Health and Safety Commission, Room 2.12, Rose Court, 2 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HS, by telephone on 0171 717 6609, or by e-mail to inquiry.team@southall.hse.gov.uk.

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CHANGING TIMES

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Vita's enchanted garden



Vita Sackville-West: she awaited Harold wherever he went

Antony King-Deacon recalls the years he spent caring for Harold Nicolson after the death of Vita Sackville-West, whose spirit was ever present in the scent of Sissinghurst's roses

When I was in my early twenties, someone I knew asked me, rather mysteriously, if I would like to meet an elderly gentleman whose wife had died. The old man had suffered a stroke, induced by his profound grief, and needed help. I had many options open to me for earning a living, but, being greatly intrigued, I said I would.

Even more strangely, they would not tell me the old gentleman's name, but we took a taxi one afternoon to Albany, an elegant complex of chambers in Piccadilly, walked along The Ropewalk, a covered avenue dividing blocks of chambers, and arrived at the imposing door of flat C3. We found the elderly gentleman sitting quietly to himself in a deep sofa beside the fireplace, traces of his lunch down his waistcoat. The stroke had rendered him semi-paralysed and his speech was in-

and half-finished words meant and interpreted. "Harold says..." or "Harold wants to know..."

"Thus I became Harold's constant companion," his nanny — for he was often playfully disobedient against the petty strictures of domestic life — his interpreter, his cheerer and, above all, his friend. I rarely had a day off, nor a holiday, except when we went to Paris for a long weekend — at The Crillon and, later, on an Hellenic cruise. Even then, I carried an envelope addressed to the Captain with instructions that if Harold died, he was to be buried at sea. I also had to be with him for weekends when he was a guest of the Duke of Wellington or the Astors, always at his side through charades or afternoon tea to steady him, to speak for him or to deal discreetly with accidents.

On Friday afternoons we took a taxi to Charing Cross station to catch the 3.10pm to Sissinghurst, where Copper, the chauffeur, would be waiting to drive us home to Sissinghurst Castle for the weekend.

I will never forget my first moments in that hauntingly beautiful place. Clutching Harold's arm, I walked slowly with him through the entrance arch and on under the Tower. Here he stopped and tried to explain where Vita worked, but he burst into tears, rocking from side to side. I waited helplessly until the grief subsided. We crossed the lawn to the South Cottage, where he lived. Copper followed with our luggage and showed me where I was to sleep. It was Vita's bedroom — there are only two — next to Harold's. And it had to be left exactly as it was. The wardrobe was filled with her clothes, riding boots apt to tumble from the bottom. Notebooks, pens and pencils and plant labels were on the table under the window. On the bedside table was a confusion of medical equipment used in her last illness. The air was heavy, stifling with Vita's presence, entwined with the scent of the rose "Madame Alfred Carrière" climbing up the wall outside. Vita was with me.

It was a ritual between them that on arriving home for the weekend Harold and Vita would walk round the garden together. It was their way of catching up on their mutual passion. She would show him the week's work; the march of the garden. Now Harold wanted to continue this tradition, but with me at his side. We went out into the garden. It was early June. It had rained in the morning, but now the sun shone.



Vita and Harold called paying visitors "Shillingses". She would talk to the serious gardeners among them; he affected disdain



Harold Nicolson suffered a stroke after his wife's death

his tie and shirt. In my helpless youth I was impotent. All I could do was to wait quietly, squeezing his arm gently, until the tears passed. And then we were engulfed by a solemn mist of grief.

Or we would sit in the shade of the catalpa, Harold reading a book, the Tower a sentinel above us. This was a time before the National Trust took over, and when Ursula, the castle secretary, was away a little box was left in the entrance arch for visitors to put money into as an informal entrance fee. These casual visitors were known as "Shillingses". I did not witness, of course, how Vita dealt with these strangers who walked round her garden, but I was told she enjoyed chatting with serious gardeners. Harold, when I was with him, did not like these "Shillingses"

at all — or affected to dislike them, which I believe is more likely the truth. But if a pair of such ladies came into an area of the garden where we were sitting and had not noticed us and furtively tried to take cuttings, Harold became furious. However, these visitors on their pilgrimage to the garden mostly kept their distance from him. Perhaps they had encountered him before.

Some evenings for an hour or so before dinner Flicky would come over for drinks, and she was a most welcome gin-and-tonic for Harold. She lived near by and was an elderly family friend. She was also most eccentric, with cropped grey hair, a ringing Benenden voice, a wild laugh, and she seemed to wear the first thing she encountered in her wardrobe.

Some evenings she would cycle over wearing a man's duffel coat over what appeared to be an old silk ballgown. Others, she would appear dishevelled in khaki Land Army dungarees under a deer-fur coat. She was outrageously funny and harmlessly indiscreet. She made us both laugh till we cried, begging her to stop. But it was heartening to see the tears of mirth wetting dear Harold's cheeks. He was generous with the measures of his drink, and Flicky was often half-cut when she arrived. After she had stumbled off into the blackness of the garden we sometimes found her in a heap in a flower border. Copper would help her to the car and get her home safely.

We always gathered flowers to take back to London with us in long, purpose-made baskets on Sunday afternoons. Harold would point with his stick and I would pick. Armfuls of old roses were ferried to the Flower Room at the rear of the South Cottage to be carefully packed, their stems wadded in wet newspaper. This pungent, cobwebbed room was a jumbled combination of potting shed, boot room and halfway house for plants

on their way to the garden. And my memory tells me that it was also here that "The Box of the Dead" stood, wherein were thrown the labels and tags of those plants that had died.

After packing the flowers, it was time for the amiable Mrs Copper to set before us in the Priest's House one of her legendary teas. Almond-flavoured sponge cake the colour of amber, whispering scones, freshly baked white bread with serious crusts, dark tangy dumpling jam with farmyard butter and thick clotted cream. The cup of tea was superfluous. And slipped into our pockets delicious rock-cakes in noisy greaseproof paper for the journey.

After such a tea we reluctantly got into the car with our flower baskets and. Copper would drive us back to Sissinghurst station for the train to London. The carriage quickly filled with the heady perfumes seeping through the baskets perched on the racks above our heads. Arriving back at Albany by taxi from Charing Cross late Sunday afternoon, we would sometimes bump into Dame Edith Evans, who would also be unpacking flowers from a weekend in the country. Dame Edith, with that glint in her amused eye, might say: "I hope you haven't ruined your borders taking all these flowers, Harold." To which he might reply: "I gave myself permission, Edith." As time went by the chamber in

Albany became too expensive and the journey down to Sissinghurst too exhausting for Harold. So we went to live permanently in the South Cottage and our life was one long weekend and Vita was by our side all the time.

My sun shone, Harold and I became skinned in friendship. Inseparable. Interdependent. The one necessary for the other. But time passed and he grew more ill and more difficult to look after. He needed constant medical attention, not simply the loving care of a friend. Professional nurses came to take my place. We both cried that day.

About two years later I was staying overnight in an hotel at Garwick airport on my way to Tel Aviv with other journalists. As I shaved in the morning, listening to the news on the radio, it was announced that my Harold had died. And with him the better part of me.



Harold, Vita, Ben and Nigel in 1929

The gardens at Sissinghurst

paired. He was, in his own constantly repeated term, gaga. He was Sir Harold Nicolson and his late wife was Vita Sackville-West.

The question was, would I look after him? Would I devote my life to what was left of his? It must be a total commitment. I would have to be with him 24 hours a day, seven days a week, indefinitely.

For a few moments Harold and I looked at each other. His face was so gentle, yet tragic, and he seemed vulnerable and devastated by his loss. I hesitated. And then I said yes. His tear-damp face beamed and he said "Have a glass of sherry" — or it sounded like that.

I did not realise how radically my life was about to change. I lived in a servant's room in the attic. I helped him to bathe, and get dressed. I cooked his breakfast, made his bed and cleaned the rooms. His secretary, a protective trier of a lady called Elvira, came most mornings. He usually lunched at the Travellers Club and often asked me to accompany him, for he was unsteady on his feet and might fall without my arm through his. Afterwards he would have a nap, then a stream of friends visited him: eminent writers, artists and politicians. It came to be that I had to be on hand during their visits because his speech had deteriorated so much that they no longer understood him. I learnt quickly to know what the grunts



'Sissinghurst then had a sense of expectancy. It held its breath. Vita was everywhere'
Antony King-Deacon

You know how, when beautiful music reaches its climax and ends, its notes seem still alive in the air, poised, lingering? Sissinghurst, that sparkling afternoon, with my arm through Harold's, had that intangible sense of expectancy. It held its breath. The hauntingly sharp scent of the balsam poplar from the orchard disturbed the senses. Vita was everywhere.

From the bench under the catalpa tree looking up at the Tower sailing above, at the window of the room where she worked, was a sense of a face peering down. The sharp step of a boot's heel in the shady Nuttery carpeted by primroses and cowslips. A rustle among the azaleas as we moved down the Moat Walk — a thrush perhaps? The pleated leaves of *Alchemilla mollis*, each with its central diamond raindrop, shuddering suddenly in this breathless afternoon? And yet...

I was no gardener at this time. But I was deeply moved by the beauty of the garden and its unique atmosphere, especially at night, when it is most intensely itself. It reserves itself for privacy, like the lady who made it. To step out after dinner in the Priest's House into the full-mooned White Garden may often have happened. But the scent of the almond blossom mingling with the sweet odour of May, the ghosted glimmer of grey-leaved

senecio and lavender and *Stachys lanata* will never leave me. The tracery of shadows criss-crossed the statue of the Virgin under the canopy of her weeping pear; the brick paths, so dangerously uneven then, glistened silver streams in the moon and starlight. The paltry beam of my torch seemed tawdry, merely human.

Harold was at his best in the mornings. He would work on "Tikki", his ancient typewriter, at his desk in the window of the South Cottage, smoking Turkish cigarettes. Or Nigel or Ben, his loving and devoted sons, might sit with him for an hour. Or Adam and Juliet, his grandchildren, might breeze through, sailing on laughter, ruffling the morning.

Or Harold would ask me to go with him on another tour of the garden. He would lean on his stick and I would take his other arm. He wore a battered dunghat and a billowing ginger-colored tweed overcoat in winter. Now, in summer, he wore putty-colored linen. But there was no joy in these walks. Wherever we went, when we sat for a while on a bench, when we hesitated before a group of hellebores or stopped to smell a rose, Vita was waiting for him. And he would sob violently, desolately, the tears wetting

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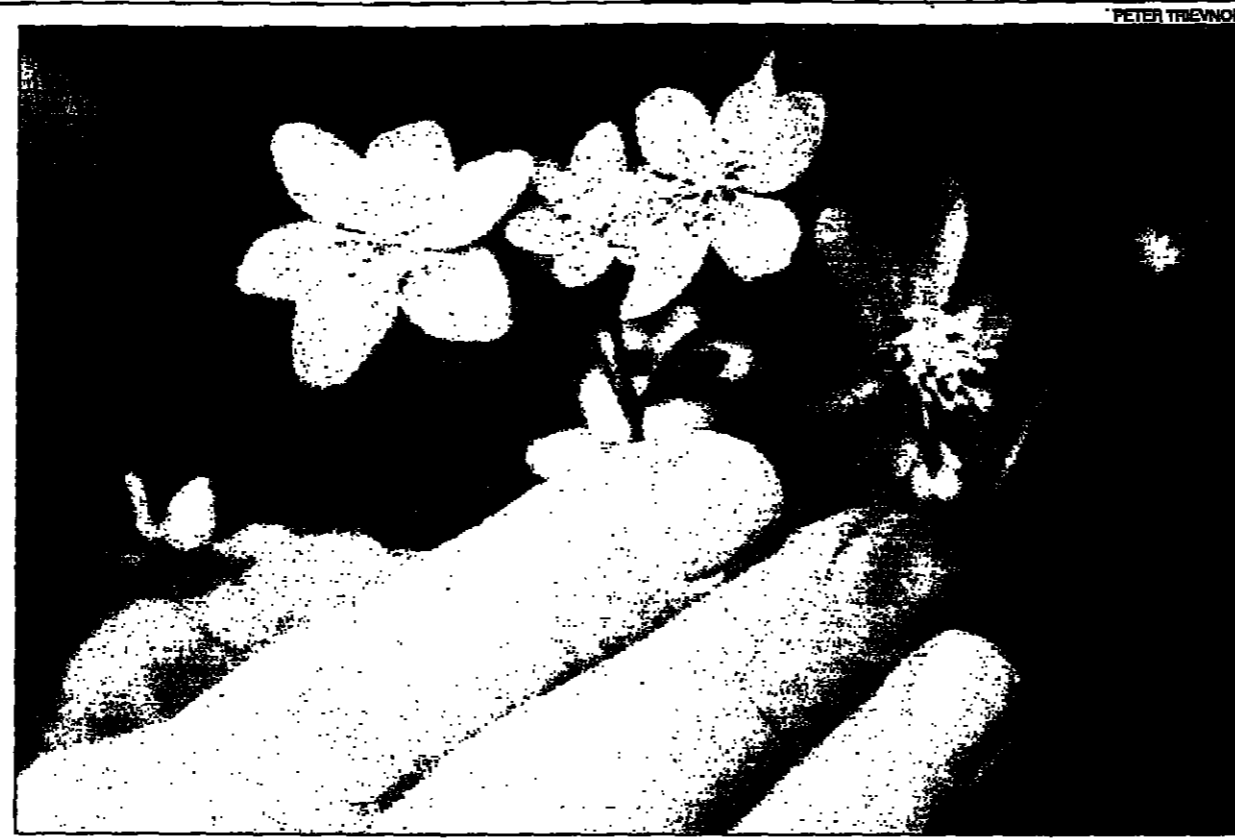
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ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 17: The Duke of Kent, President of the Scout Association, this afternoon opened the Sir John Lowther Activity and Training Centre, Rushton Road, Clendon, Kettering, Northamptonshire.
His Royal Highness later visited Cosworth Engineering Limited, St James Hill Road, Northampton.

The Princess Royal later visited Cheadam's Library, Long Millgate, Manchester.
Her Royal Highness, Patron, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, afterwards opened the new premises of Eccles Citizens Advice Bureau, Church Road, Eccles.
The Princess Royal, Chancellor, (Justices) of London, this evening attended the City and Guilds Association Centenary Dinner at Goldsmiths Hall, Foster Lane, London EC2.



On show: some of the delicate little hepaticas that won a gold medal for Ashwood Nurseries

Bright variations on the snowdrop

By Alan Toogood, Horticulture Correspondent

WHAT is thought to be the first ever exhibit of hepaticas at a Royal Horticultural Society flower show is helping to create some variation among the countless snowdrops and other early spring bulbs at the Westminster show this week.
These show spring-flowering woodland perennials have been awarded a gold medal for Ashwood Nurseries, of Kingswinford, West Midlands, who have assembled a comprehensive collection of species and cultivars from North America, Europe, China, Japan and Korea. The show's director, Chris Brickell, is one of many Victorian and early 20th-century collectors on display. This is a fine, scarce snowdrop, large in all its parts, with heavy, globular flowers.



John Massey of Ashwood Nurseries with his display of Hepatica nobilis japonica

Salix alba "Golden Ness" with slender, deep yellow stems. In the RHS ornamental plants competition, Mrs E. Ballivant, of Zeals, Wiltshire, has won the class for four trees or shrubs for flowers, fruits, foliage and colour. Mrs E. Ballivant, of Zeals, Wiltshire, has won the class for four trees or shrubs for flowers, fruits, foliage and colour. Mrs E. Ballivant, of Zeals, Wiltshire, has won the class for four trees or shrubs for flowers, fruits, foliage and colour.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.W.R. Bracken and Miss A.M.M.M. Djaja
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr Charles E. Bracken, of Winchester, and Mrs Mary Bracken, of Gerrards Cross, Bucks.
Mr J.C. Brown and Miss J.F. Cousins
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, elder son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Brown, of Walkers-on-the-Hill, Surrey, and Jacqueline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Royston Cousins, of Sutton, Surrey.

Royal engagements

The Queen will hold an Investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00. The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Fellow, will attend a book launch at the Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, at 6.45. The Duke of Kent will attend a seminar and the letters 'C' and 'S'.

The Royal Society of Chemistry

The following were admitted as Fellows of The Royal Society of Chemistry in January 1998. They are entitled to use the designation 'F.R.S.C.' and the letters 'C' and 'S'.

Appointment

Lady Vaisey has been reappointed a Trustee of the Imperial War Museum.

Tonbridge School

The following Music Art and Technology awards have been made for 1998:
Simon Durrant, The New Beacon, Sevenoaks; Mitch Foster-Poole, Dulwich College, London; and James Hill, Dulwich College Preparatory School, Dulwich, London.

Memorial service

Mr Howard Newby
A celebration of the life and achievements of Mr Howard Newby, presenter of BBC Radio 3, was held yesterday at St John's Wood Church, London, NW5.

Diners

City and Guilds College Association
The Princess Royal, Chancellor of London University, was the guest of honour at a centenary dinner of the City and Guilds Association held last night at Goldsmiths Hall, Dr Anthony Denton, president of the association, was in the chair.

Luncheon

Tallow Chandlers' Company
Mr J.B.N. Kurjian, Master of the Tallow Chandlers' Company, presented the Tallow Chandlers' Award to City and Guilds Vocational Education Students at a luncheon held yesterday at Tallow Chandlers' Hall.

Birthdays today

Mr Rob Andrew, rugby player, 35; Mr M. Arpan, Chief Constable, North Wales, 53; Mr Michael Bosik, broadcaster, 52; Miss Phyllis Hall, physicist, Bedford, Northamptonshire, 1900; George Peckham, American philanthropist, 1853; Mrs Susan E. Cook, painter, 61; Miss Susan Cook, actress, 50; Mr Roy Dean, diplomat, 71; Mr Philip DeGrazia, scientist, 32; Mr Len Dore, actor, 89; Mr Lieutnant-General Sir Donald Duff, 75; Mr Miles Forman, film director, 66; Sir Charles Fynn, former Baron of Gwent, 76; Mr Glynis Harcourt, author, 69; Miss Tessa Hill, deputy editor, The Express, 47; Dr J.C. Houston, former Dean, United Methodist Church, 70; Mrs Joan E. Jones, St Thomas Hospital, 81; Mr Colin Jackson, athlete, 31; Sir Peter Laurence, diplomat, 73; Miss Puer Leitz, cookery writer and caterer, 52; Mr Michael Lickes, accountant, 41; Professor William McAtee, FBA, Emeritus Principal, St Mary's College, St Andrews University, 77; Sir Arthur Norman, former chairman, World Wide Fund for Nature, UK; Sir Lord Paul, 67; Mr Bobby Robson, former manager, England football team, 65; Miss Cybil Sheppard, actress, 48; Mr Neil Sheppard, producer, director and writer, 67; Sir Max Williams, solicitor, 72; General Sir John Wilsey, 59.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Queen Mary I, reigned 1552-58; Greenwich, 1516; Count Alessandro Volta, physicist, Como, Italy, 1745; Marshall Hall, physician, Bedford, Northamptonshire, 1790; George Peckham, American philanthropist, 1853; Mrs Susan E. Cook, painter, 1853; Mrs Susan Cook, actress, 1900; Ramnarayan, Hindu mystic, 1800; Tompkins, 1836; Tom L. Kelly, actor, producer, Kingston, New Jersey, 1887; Luigi Dallapiccola, composer, Florence, 1915; John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress was published, 1678.
A direct telephone link was established between Britain and New Zealand, 1876.
The planet Pluto was discovered by Clyde Tombaugh at Lowell Observatory, Arizona, 1930.

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BIRTHS
POWYS-BRIDGE - On Sunday 15th February 1998, to Simon and Joanna Cole, a son, Thomas Frederick, a brother for Emma, Katherine and Jack.
SALVET - On February 17th at the Portland Hospital, to Christine and Drew, a son, Charles, a brother for Guy and Sophia.
SINGHAR-SINGH - On February 14th, to Jacqueline and Fredrick, a daughter, Charlotte Victoria, a sister for Anna and Sarah.
SWINNEY - On February 13th 1998, to James and Jane, a son, Isaac George.
CARLTON-SMITH - On February 16th, to Elizabeth and Mark, a daughter, Erin Sophia, a sister for Mariah.
CROFT - On February 16th at the Portland Hospital, to John and Sarah, a daughter, Isabella, a sister for Joseph and Sophia.
DUNN - On February 12th at the Portland Hospital, to John and Sarah, a daughter, Isabella, a sister for Joseph and Sophia.
GALTY - On February 11th, to Michael and Tracy, a daughter, Elizabeth Rose, a sister for Alexander and Harry.
CLOUGH - Dr Elizabeth, 50.
CROFT - On February 16th at the Portland Hospital, to John and Sarah, a daughter, Isabella, a sister for Joseph and Sophia.
DUNN - On February 12th at the Portland Hospital, to John and Sarah, a daughter, Isabella, a sister for Joseph and Sophia.
GALTY - On February 11th, to Michael and Tracy, a daughter, Elizabeth Rose, a sister for Alexander and Harry.
CLOUGH - Dr Elizabeth, 50.

DEATHS
COOPER - On 16th February 1998, peacefully at home, Nancy Corbin B.M. in her 93rd year. Much loved wife of the late Peter Cooper, and beloved mother of Margaret and John. Buried at St Mary's Church, London.
DEANE - Charles Edward, 75, died peacefully at home on 15th February 1998. Much loved husband of the late Patricia Deane. Buried at St Mary's Church, London.
DEAN - On 15th February 1998, peacefully at home, John Dean, 75. Much loved husband of the late Patricia Dean. Buried at St Mary's Church, London.
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DEATHS
MADAM - Yvonne, on 13th February 1998, peacefully at home, with her family, Mrs Yvonne Madam, 75. Much loved wife of the late Peter Madam, and beloved mother of Margaret and John. Buried at St Mary's Church, London.
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MEMORIAL SERVICES
TAYLOR - Margaret Margaret (nee Powell) nee Taylor, died peacefully at home on February 14th 1998. Beloved wife of John Taylor, and beloved mother of Margaret and John. Buried at St Mary's Church, London.
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OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR SIR HARRY HINSLEY

Professor Sir Harry Hinsley, OBE, FBA, historian and Master of St John's College, Cambridge, 1979-89, died on February 16 aged 79. He was born on November 26, 1918.

A wartime officer at the Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire, fitted Harry Hinsley perfectly to write the history of British Intelligence in the Second World War, when the time came. For more than thirty years after the war, he and many others of those who had been intimately acquainted with codebreaking at Bletchley held their peace, while successive histories of the conflict appeared, making of necessity no mention of the contribution of Ultra intelligence to the final victory.

during more than five years of war. At that period, Hinsley established a reputation as the leading authority in this country on the history of international relations through his teaching and through books such as Nationalism and the International System (1973). But he got his chance to write the book he had always wanted to write when, with the 30-year rule on the confidentiality of wartime secrets expiring, he was appointed official historian of British Intelligence in the Second World War.

whom he had known at Cambridge by a suddenly-acquired respectability of dress and hair. His recollections in later years of the ethos of wartime Bletchley make it clear that, while it was often a life of drudgery, it was far from monastic, with parties, amateur dramatics, lots of young ladies.

their heads, infectious with the sheer scale of his zest and energy, he lectured to large audiences. He soon began to collect research students around him, and in time directed more postgraduates than any other professor in Britain.

rian of wartime British intelligence led, in due course to his publishing (as joint author) British Intelligence in the Second World War, which appeared in four volumes (volume 3 in two parts) between 1979 and 1990, with an abridged published edition in 1990. The work established beyond doubt that "Sigint" (signals intelligence) had yielded the bulk of tactical and strategic information during the war, and that the interwar warfare between the various intelligence agencies, MI6, SOE, and so on, militated against their effectiveness. But the history was cryptic about the wartime work of MI5: as Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher had already suppressed two works on the subject.



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MARTHA GELLHORN

Martha Gellhorn, war correspondent and novelist, died on February 15 aged 89. She was born in St Louis, Missouri, on November 8, 1908.

MARTHA GELLHORN was famous on two counts. She was a war correspondent of high calibre, one of the first women — someone would argue the first — to enter that area of journalism. And she was the third wife of Ernest Hemingway, dedicatee of For Whom The Bell Tolls.



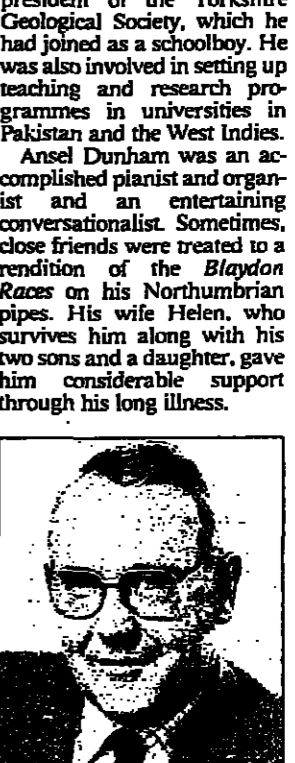
no mention of the Hemingway marriage, or any other liaison for that matter. (She was married in all three times, finally in 1954 to T. S. Matthews, whose secretary she had once been on the New Republic in Washington.) Gellhorn saw herself as a champion of the oppressed. Wherever they were in the world she sought them out and reported on what she found in cool, crisp prose, which could be emotive through its almost laconic cadences. She remained true to her left-wing credentials.

PROFESSOR ANSEL DUNHAM

Ansel Dunham, geologist, died of cancer on January 18 aged 59. He was born on August 2, 1938.

ANSEL DUNHAM published papers on geological topics as diverse as lunar rocks, volcanic geology, manganese nodules in deep oceans, archaeological mineralogy and ocular injuries from liquid gall ball cores (which contain the mineral barytes). His international reputation, however, was built on his study of the geology of industrial rocks and minerals and the mineralogical transformations in manufacturing processes.

the university, but frowned upon by many other academics, including those who later saw to the closure of the department in 1988. Today such income-generating activities are an essential part of university life. Dunham always held the view that applied geologists must maintain links with industry. His major projects included the assessment of sand and gravel resources on Humberside. He was also involved in the investigations at the proposed site for nuclear waste disposal at Killingholme on the Humber Estuary, although he kept this secret so as to avoid adverse publicity for the university.



Professor Ansel Dunham, geologist, died of cancer on January 18 aged 59. He was born on August 2, 1938.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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book, The Trouble I've Seen. This was in the style, which Gellhorn was to perfect, of fact only lightly clad in fiction. One particular portrait of a child prostitute called "Ruby" remained in the minds of all who read it. Trouble had an introduction by H. G. Wells, who was much taken by the author's blond beauty at a White House encounter, although Martha Gellhorn was to complain that this contribution was forced on her.

Allied forces when Dachau was liberated and her report was one of the first to reveal the dark secret of the Holocaust — and one of the most harrowing. With the end of the Second World War it looked as though Martha Gellhorn might be short of causes to espouse and battlefronts to describe. Vietnam altered all that and, she remarked bitterly, for the first time she found herself on the wrong side, the American one. She also found difficulty at times in getting where she wanted to be. By now she was too well known to open doors with disingenuous excuses along the lines that she was "just there for the woman's angle".

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INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



BUSINESS David Blunkett on his new links with Bank PAGE 29



HOMES What the Germans can teach us about roof gardens PAGE 39



SPORT Dwyer makes way for Richards at Leicester PAGES 42-48

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 46-47

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18 1998

Barclays shares hit as profits disappoint



Taylor: higher provisions

By RICHARD MILES BANKING CORRESPONDENT SHARES in Barclays tumbled more than 6 per cent yesterday after the bank disappointed the City with lower-than-expected pre-tax profits of £1.76 billion.

Profits at Barclays were hit by a £644 million write-off against the partial sale of BZW, its investment banking arm. Operating profits before provisions rose 10 per cent to £2.7 billion from £2.47 billion in the previous year.

Provisions for bad and doubtful debts rose almost 6 per cent to £227 million. This included a £45 million provision against debts in South-East Asia where Barclays has a £1.2 billion exposure, equivalent to about 0.5 per cent of total assets.

Mr Taylor said the bank had surplus capital above the £6.4-£6.8 billion needed to support its operations and so he was planning a £500 million share buyback, following a similar £800 million exercise last year.

Mr Taylor remained tight-lipped on City rumours that a merger with NatWest was back on the agenda. Addressing a meeting of analysts earlier, he appeared almost to rule out an acquisition because of the high cost of takeover targets.

City analysts downgraded their forecasts for 1998 profits in the light of the disappointing figures. James Hamilton of Credit Lyonnais Laing dropped his forecast to £2.5 billion from £2.7 billion, while Robin Down at ABN Amro moved to £2.65 billion from £2.8 billion.

Commentary, page 27

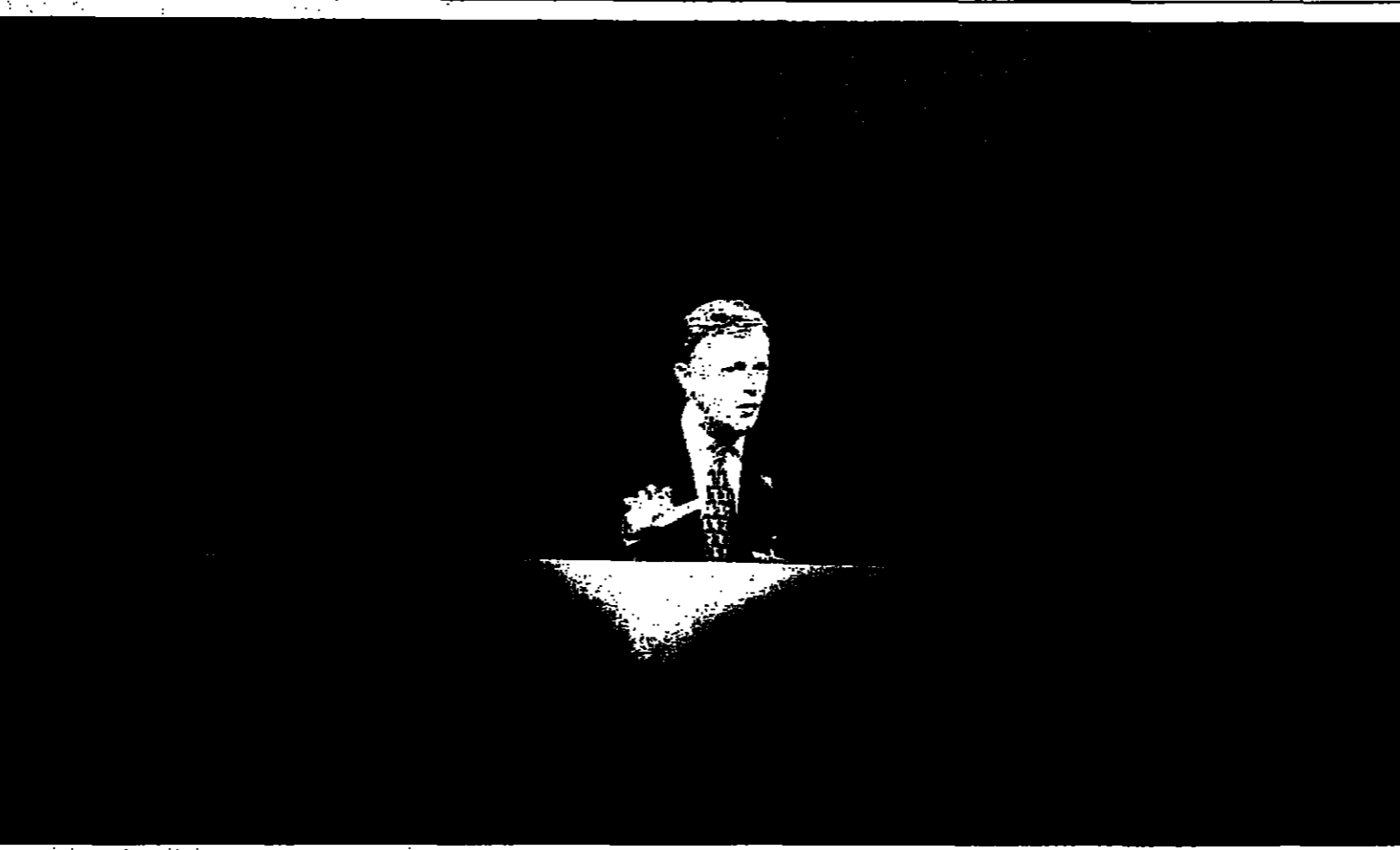
War-chest charge revived as £10bn is repaid

By ALASDAIR MURRAY ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Chancellor is facing fresh accusations that he is trying to build a pre-election war chest after the Treasury made a record debt repayment last month.

THE stock market closed at a record high yesterday, boosted by renewed speculation of a major bid activity. The FTSE 100 climbed 59.6 points to 5,709.5 as talks of mergers and takeovers among financial services companies sent shares in the sector soaring.

help to rebalance the economy and to head off a possible further rise in interest rates, easing pressure on the pound. The Bank of England is likely to take a dim view of any tax cuts while consumer spending remains strong, but the health of the public finances has left the Chancellor with little choice to increase taxes.



John Monks opposes a compromise that would mean union recognition would be granted only if the majority of all employees voted for it

TUC steps up battle for recognition

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE TUC is to set up its battle for "effective" union recognition through a national advertising campaign to be launched in the next few days.

fight for recognition in workplaces where the majority of employees in a ballot vote for it amid fears that the Prime Minister and his close advisors intend to back employers' demands for a weaker interpretation of recognition.

retary of the TUC, said: "We have got a persuasive case, a good case for effective recognition and we will keep on pressing that." He said he had always believed that the manifesto pledge on recognition - which would mark an important turning point for the movement after 18 years of Conservative legislation - was unambiguous and intended to grant recognition on majority voting.

union leaders as the Government will also seek to press Tony Blair on commitments he made to recognition while employment spokesman.

President Suharto moved swiftly to appoint Sjahril Sabirin, a director at the Central Bank, as the new Governor. Mr Sjahril has given strong support to the currency board system which aims to fix the exchange rate of the Indonesian rupiah by backing all the notes in circulation with hard currency.

Sony and Philips license 'super' CD

By CARL MORTSHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

PHILIPS and Sony are jointly licensing the technology to the Super Audio CD, a new generation compact disc, in the hope that it will steal a march on competitors to become the industry standard.



Dion: records with Sony

Pound's strength curbs SB advance

By PAUL DURMAN

SMITHKLINE Beecham, currently trying to hammer out a £15 billion merger deal with Glaxo Wellcome, said the strong pound cut £157 million from its profits last year.

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including Stock Market Indices, US Rate, London Money, Sterling, New York, and Gold prices.

Suharto dismisses bank governor

By ALASDAIR MURRAY ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT PRESIDENT SUHARTO yesterday sacked the Governor of the Indonesian Central Bank in a move likely to widen the country's rift with the International Monetary Fund.

Advertisement for Hire Intelligence computer rental services, featuring the text 'DAILY TO ANNUAL COMPUTER RENTAL NEEDS? CONSULT A HIRE INTELLIGENCE!' and 'Hire Intelligence The intelligent choice in computer rentals.'

F&C fights back after governance criticisms

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

FOREIGN & Colonial Management (FCM) yesterday sought to recapture the moral high ground in the investment trust industry by announcing sweeping changes in the corporate governance of the 14 trusts that it manages.

Jeremy Tighe, James Nelson, Stephen White, Ian Wright, Andrew Barker, Jamie Ogilvy, FCM's chairman, and Dr Arnab Banerji, head of F&C Emerging Markets, will resign from 12 trusts in the next year. Employees will be free to serve on the boards when they leave the company but will first have to sever any long-term incentive arrangements, FCM said.

Companies Investment Trust (Brazil). He said the reforms were part of long-term programme and had been delayed until the Hampel report on corporate governance was published.

failed to condemn publicly the warrant purchase. Last month, Brazil shareholders sued the board, which included Michael Hart, former FCM chairman and now head of the Association of Investment Trust Companies.

Computer bid in US is cut and goes hostile

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

COMPUTER ASSOCIATES, the third-largest American software house, yesterday reduced its \$9 billion (£5.4 billion) takeover offer for Computer Sciences by 5 per cent and made the bid a hostile one.

On Monday, Computer Associates had sweetened its offer from \$108 a share to \$114 on condition that talks about the bid resumed immediately.

Borrowers' protection to improve

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

LENDERS and insurers urged the Government to join them in improving safety net measures designed to protect homeowners when they are out of work.

Computer Sciences is stonewalling to fend off expected huge job losses and to find a friendlier merger or takeover partner. Computer Associates' bid is contingent on Computer Sciences removing its "poison pill" shareholder-rights plan.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Association of British Insurers are joining forces to develop a standard, low-cost form of mortgage payment protection insurance (MPPi) to ensure that fewer people face repossession when they suffer an accident, illness or unemployment.

Together, Computer Associates and Computer Sciences would form a serious rival to IBM, the market leader, in the \$120-billion market for installing and maintaining corporate computer systems in America.

Currently only one in four homeowners take out MPPi, discouraged by the fact that at £5 per £100 of cover it is the most expensive form of insurance and is complicated by a bewildering array of exclusions.

Tom Masi, a fund manager for Cowen & Co, said: "I probably would accept \$108. If Computer Associates gets this, they will be an incredible power."



Botting out of retailing: Rodney Galpin, chairman, left, and Stuart Sidall, finance director, of Alpha Airports

Alpha Airports in retail sale

By FRASER NELSON

KEVIN ABBOTT, the former merchant banker who took charge of Alpha Airports last October, is to sell the group's retail division for £50 million.

The disposal, a last-ditch attempt to revive its flagging share price, is being accompanied by a £14 million internal shake-up aimed at transforming the group into debt-free aircraft services provider half its current size.

already found two prospective buyers for the retail division and hopes to complete the sale within three months. The group also intends to close two divisional offices and shut down the oldest of its three kitchens at Heathrow at a cost of £7.7 million, and write down the value of its kitchen at Orly airport, France, by £4 million.

Mr Abbott said he has already found two prospective buyers for the retail division and hopes to complete the sale within three months. The group also intends to close two divisional offices and shut down the oldest of its three kitchens at Heathrow at a cost of £7.7 million, and write down the value of its kitchen at Orly airport, France, by £4 million.

Low & Bonar beats market hopes on road to recovery

By KATHY LIPARI

INVESTORS appeared to believe that Low & Bonar, the paper and packaging group, was fighting its way back to recovery yesterday after delivering one final dose of bad medicine: a 42 per cent slump in annual pre-tax earnings to £30.2 million for the year to November 30.

The City drove the shares 10p higher, to 315p. L&B is still trading well below the 450p levels of a year ago and the 573p of August 1996. But this was before its earnings troubles and the loss of its £40 million a year contract with Kellogg, the cereal producer.

John Robinson, chairman of L&B, blamed the strength of sterling and higher interest charges on the decline in 1997 profits but said focus on higher margin businesses was beginning to pay off.

Peregrine funds go to Jardine

By RICHARD MILES

JARDINE FLEMING has taken control of seven funds formerly run by Peregrine Investment Holdings, the Hong Kong investment bank that collapsed in December.

Business Roundup

Premier share price recovery continues

SHARES in Premier Farnell, the electronic components distributor, yesterday continued the sharp recovery they have staged since the company lost Howard Poulson, the chief executive, last month. The price rose 2 1/2p to 376 1/2p, 100p higher than the low it touched immediately after Mr Poulson's exit.

Smiths wins £30m work

SMITHS INDUSTRIES, the medical engineering and aerospace group, is to supply avionic systems valued initially at £30 million for two upgrade programmes involving civil and military aircraft.

Paget quits HIT

MALCOLM PAGET, finance director of HIT Entertainment, resigned from the company yesterday. He will be replaced by Shawn Taylor, previously finance director of ITEL, the international television programme distributor.

Paper profits up

UPM-KYMMENE, the Finnish paper producing group with 15 per cent of its operations in the UK, reported a 57 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the year ended December 31, from 3.5 billion Finnish markka (£394 million) to 5.6 billion markka.

TGI Friday's at airports

COMPASS GROUP, the contract caterer, is to develop TGI Friday's restaurants at airports throughout Europe, the Asia Pacific region, Canada and South Africa under a five-year agreement signed yesterday with the chain's US parent.

Clondalkin sales rise

PROFITS before tax for Clondalkin, the Irish paper and packaging group, rose 22 per cent to Ir£271 million (£23 million) in 1997. Sales were up 31 per cent to Ir£392 million, and the final dividend increased to 4.62p, bringing the total dividend for the year to 7.26p, against 6.6p in 1996.

Macro 4 edges ahead

MACRO 4, the software company, raised pre-tax profits from £1.1 million to £5.25 million in the six months to December 31 on sales up from £1.7 million to £12.1 million.

Dobbies grows to £1m

SHARES in Dobbies Garden Centres rose 22 1/2p, to 317 1/2p, after the company declared a 62 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £1.02 million, for the year to October 31, on sales up 28 per cent, to £5.5 million. Earnings per share rose 7.5 per cent, to 17.2p, from which a maiden total dividend of 4 1/2p will be paid.

First Leisure set to bow out of bingo

By DOMINIC WALSH

FIRST LEISURE is poised to announce its long-awaited exit from the bingo business through a £33 million sale to management. Delays to the deal, which was due to have been completed last Monday, appear to have been resolved and insiders now expect an announcement by the end of this week.

The Riva bingo chain, which has suffered from a combination of the National Lottery and poor management, incurred a loss of £2 million last year and is now valued at £30.8 million. Since 1993, the group has spent £60 million on the business, including the £20 million acquisition cost.

price of £45 million but there appears to have been some confusion over the level of the funding package put together by NatWest. First Leisure is tied in to an £8 million expansion programme, and any deal is likely to see this commitment passed on to the new owners.



Control of the Asia Bond fund, listed in Luxembourg and Osaka and sponsored by Nikko Securities, will give Jardine a chance to build a relationship with a big Japanese securities house, said a spokesman.

Michael Grade, chairman, right, laid the groundwork for a disposal at last month's full-year results when he announced a £26.5 million writedown on the value of the business.

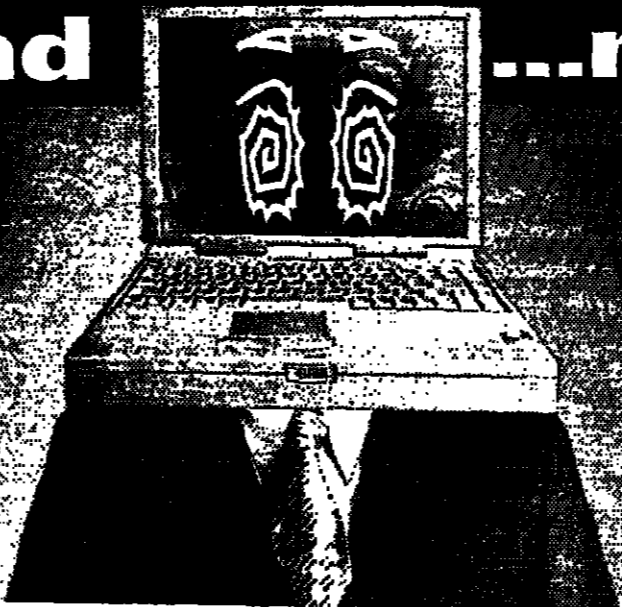
Recent reports had suggested a sale of £45 million but there appears to have been some confusion over the level of the funding package put together by NatWest.

Analysts believe Mr Grade is also considering a piecemeal exit from the resorts business in order to focus the group's resources on the three core areas of bars and nightclubs, health and fitness and family entertainment.

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سكندا من الاصل

Martin Taylor has never actually said that he would like to merge Barclays with National Westminster but he has resisted all opportunities to deny it.

Don't bank on a merger

COMMENTARY by our City Editor



an efficient rival to NatWest and the rest and, buried in the figures he produced yesterday, is the evidence of how successful he has been.

Despite a valiant attempt to present them in sufficient detail to befuddle all but the most determined of readers, the figures Barclays revealed yesterday left the City disappointed.

But now he must move into phase two and that is much harder. Stripping out the EZW agencies, Barclays costs were flat over the year but that means the cost cuts have come to an end.

world of financial services now offers customers sufficient choice for there to be no harm in two of the major players coming together.

look-in. Except, that is, for the chief suppliers of gravy for the Chancellor's train. It is hard to be sure how much of the £3.2 billion rise in income tax receipts in January came from underlying growth of the economy and fiscal drag.

spending is actually 0.4 per cent down in the first ten months of the year, compared with a budgeted rise.

Boom time at the Inland Revenue

Estate agents and what are coyly known as outplacement consultants would be working overtime to cope with the fall out, should NatWest and Barclays ever come together.

You can almost hear the sound of hands rubbing together and lips smacking at the healthy state of government finances.

The seasonal novelty of self-assessment clearly distorts the figures. But there is no getting away from the trend. Over the past 12 months, the public sector borrowing requirement has been only £8 billion.

Unless there is an orgy of budget-stuffing and a Whitehall bonanza for the wallpaper trade in the last two months of the year, the 1997-98 budget deficit should end up at least £2 billion lower than the November forecast of £9.5 billion.

Dome not best home for corporate cash

Shareholders in British Telecom may have been relieved to read at the weekend that their company was abandoning its plans to put £12 million of their money into the Millennium Dome.

But major companies are being canvassed to fund Peter Mandelson's pet project and investors should beware. None have signed yet, although BT is not the only one to have indicated support.

The turn of the century should be marked in style and companies will undoubtedly find goodwill to be won by helping the nation celebrate.

Ready Eddie

TODAY should bring confirmation that the next Governor of the Bank of England is to be Eddie George. It would be good to think that, when the belated offer eventually came, Eddie hummed and hawed and asked Gordon Brown if he might just take a few days to think about it.

Bayer deal a tonic for flotation of Oxford

By PAUL DURMAN

THE proposed flotation next month of Oxford Asymmetry International has been boosted by a contract to supply hundreds of thousands of new chemicals to the health-care arm of Bayer, of Germany.

WPP underscores advance with optimistic outlook

By JASON NISSE

MARTIN SORRELL, chief executive of WPP Group, yesterday predicted that the advertising market in the Pacific Rim would continue to grow by nearly 10 per cent this year despite the economic turmoil hitting the region.

Hill & Knowlton, the world's largest public relations firm, WPP is budgeting 9 per cent growth for the region. "The currency devaluation in these countries has made their businesses much more price competitive," said Mr Sorrell.



Martin Sorrell predicts growth in the Pacific Rim

They were the best results achieved by WPP in the 13 years since Mr Sorrell, the former finance director of Saatchi & Saatchi, transformed the group from a maker of supermarket trolleys.

Hanson to acquire HG Fenton

By ADAM JONES

HANSON has continued its transformation from sprawling conglomerate to focused building materials group with an \$83 million (£51 million) cash purchase in America.

Northern Foods pays £79m for rival Cavaghan

By FRASER NELSON

NORTHERN FOODS, Britain's largest producer of chilled foods, is to add Ross sausages and Dalepak burgers to its stable of dinner brands with an agreed £79.2 million takeover bid for the rival Cavaghan & Gray.

Five fellow directors will make £135,000 between them. Cavaghan & Gray's shares have risen steadily since a 58½p low six months ago, which then gave the company a market value of £40 million.

Le Caprice chiefs buy Sheekys

By DOMINIC WALSH

JEREMY KING and Chris Corbin, whose skill in fusing food with fashion and showbusiness have made Le Caprice and The Ivy in central London a must for the glitterati, are to double their empire by acquiring the two Sheekys restaurants in London.

Payout picks up at Sedgwick

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

SEDGWICK GROUP, the insurance broker, yesterday followed arch rival Willis Corroon in announcing its first rise in dividend payments since 1994.

would pay shareholders a final dividend of 4p (3.5p) giving a total for the year of 7p (6.5p).

Despite falling premium rates and the strength of sterling, which knocked £10.2 million off profits, the company recorded good results from its aviation, UK retail and credit and international broking businesses.

acquisitions to expand its employee benefits business in Europe. He reiterated his view that the company would look at a merger if it benefited shareholders, fit its strategy and did not involve any large scale job losses.

Costly sales push Quarto to 63% fall

QUARTO, the publishing group, suffered from currency fluctuations and a series of costly disposals last year and pre-tax profits fell 63 per cent from £7.8 million to £2.9 million (Chris Ayres writes).

Advertisement for a law firm: Fewer than 20 employees? Have YOUR say on a law that could affect YOUR business and help disabled people.

Form for a survey: Name, Address, Telephone, Postcode. Includes a logo for DDA (Disability Discrimination Act).

Table with 3 columns: Name of Company, Dividend No., Amount per share (pence). Includes entries for New Wits Limited and Vegetrisubank Metal Holdings Limited.

Asian crisis should teach banks a lesson

The current defiance of the International Monetary Fund by Indonesia's President Suharto is bound to train the scrutiny of this weekend's Group of Seven discussion on the Asian crisis on the culpability of the region itself. Stanley Fischer, first deputy managing director of the Fund, has described Asia's problems as "mostly homegrown" and President Suharto's determination to plough his own furrow from a very weak position will inevitably intensify Western condemnation of crony capitalism.

international bank lending in the first six months of last year was a corker, showing massive increases in lending to South East Asia, particularly by French and German banks, much of it at maturities of a year or less. French lending has risen by some 17 per cent over the past year while German banks have raised their lending by some 30 per cent.

German and French banks have climbed out as far as possible along a high branch to practice their pogo technique. European banks largely escaped the purifying fire of the Latin American debt crisis that US banks experienced and seemed naive in the business of risk assessment and credit control.



JANET BUSH

markets to provide better financial and economic information in order to give investors a better chance of assessing risks. But the onus is also on developing better statistics on the activities of lenders as well as borrowers.

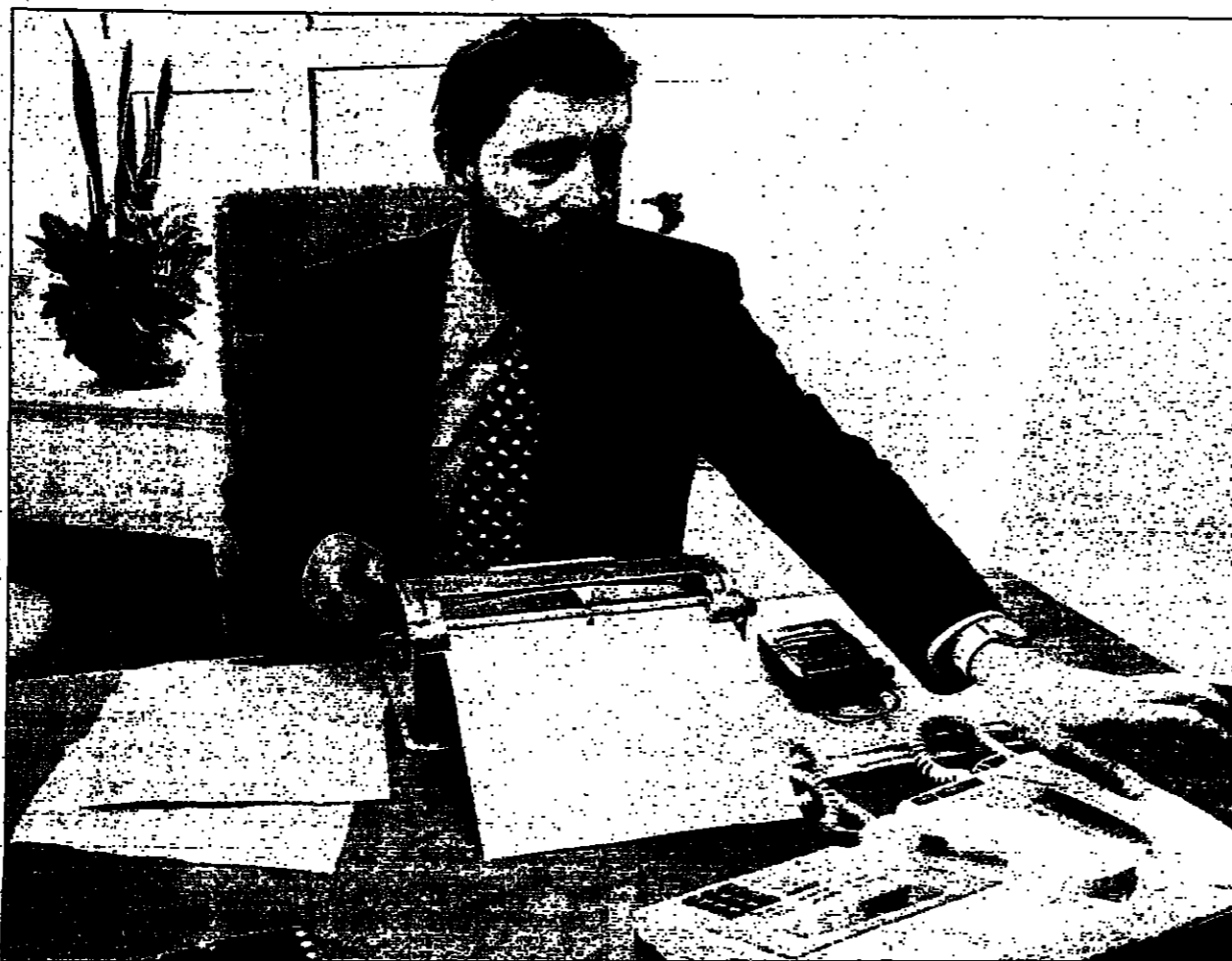
decide that it is a safe bet. But, if that bank had known the levels of aggregate lending by its competitors to the Indonesian corporate sector, how much of it was short-term and how much was denominated in a foreign currency and therefore vulnerable to any substantial currency depreciation, that individual lending decision may not have looked quite as rosy.

capital markets surveillance, now head of emerging markets at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, argued that Indonesia must be the test case that returns some hazard to creditors by forcing them to swallow very large write-offs.

which have quadrupled in value because of the devaluation of the rupiah. Bank lenders ought to be forced to face that fact. Some argue that confidence would return, and the currency recover more quickly to levels that would ease the corporate debt burden and that some of the potentially murderous unrest could be avoided, if bank creditors were bailed out and were to start lending again. But the bankers would have learned no lessons.

Moulding Labour's new Britain is an education for minister

Janet Bush talks to David Blunkett about lifetime learning and employability



David Blunkett says he is "fortunate to have the opportunity of delivering some of the Government's key pledges"

David Blunkett is pivotal to Labour's masterplan for the modernisation of Britain. While Tony Blair provided the visionary language and Gordon Brown the conceptual framework for the project, it is the former leader of Sheffield City Council, now Education and Employment Secretary, who has the unenviable task of putting it into action.

We are fortunate to have the opportunity of delivering some of the Government's key pledges on education, skills, employment and health. We have three out of four and we have to deliver. Mr Blunkett said. More than this, his department is at the leading edge of new Labour's drive to create a culture of lifetime learning and self-reliance in the world of work.

Award to Manpower, citing its work in the training and recruitment of people with disabilities, and announced the head of his new Skills Task Force. This weekend, Mr Blunkett will play a leading role in the Jobs Summit in London. Next Wednesday, he publishes a Green Paper on lifelong learning, covering initiatives such as the University for Industry and Individual Learning Accounts.

The complex interrelation of education and employment, which persuaded the Conservative Government to merge the two departments, means that Mr Blunkett is involved in a great deal of relationship building. The Skills Task Force is designed to provide a reference point for all those who have something to contribute to the issue. It is hoped that the Task Force will bury the complaint, so often directed at Conservatives, that Britain's training provision was piecemeal and confusing.

Mr Blunkett's bridge building is a new relationship with the Bank of England, quite independent from the established links between the Bank and the Treasury. This effort underlines Mr Blunkett's view that his is essentially an economic brief. Mr Blunkett met Eddie George, Governor of the Bank, before Christmas and Mr Smith met officials from the Bank in January. "It seems to me that we are in this together. The consequences of economic decisions affect us directly just as what we do affects the future of the economy," Mr Blunkett said.

charge of relations with the Bank. I am not driving my nails on his lawn. "What we are saying is that never before has the skills and employability agenda been more crucial to economic success. All the pressures, the hotspots in the economy, are about whether we have people ready and available to work."

He said: "Independence of the Bank of England has obviously changed the relationship with the Treasury. Relationships can now be broader." Mr Blunkett is all too aware of the inter-departmental sensitivities, particularly those of the Chancellor, who was so central to designing the policies that Mr Blunkett is attempting to execute.

Name game

AMID all this speculation about who will be the next chairman of NatWest — a poisoned chalice if ever one was offered — another pressing issue has been ignored. What is happening at Boots? The retailer's chief executive, Lord Blyth of Rowington (it's a village in Warwickshire, since you ask), is the latest name in the NatWest frame, having agreed to become a non-executive director of the performance-challenged high street bank.



Mr George, it's President Suharto on the line

summer and, according to Boots tradition, is also due to hang up his dispensing scales at the age of 60 — which he attains in May 2000. This will leave Boots in need of a chief executive. But who can fill Lord Blyth's shoes?

There are two candidates — David Thompson, the finance director, and Steve Russell, who runs Boots the Chemist. Both have been with the company more than 30 years and both were made joint managing directors last year. Insiders say that although Mr Thompson is the architect of Boots's conversion to a value-based management, at 55 he is just a little bit too old. Expect Mr Russell to ascend to the throne soon-ish.



Bowkett has not seen the amusing side of the poultry action. "This childish stunt demonstrates that the GMB has no serious interest in tackling the issues between the company and its members," he blasts. Maybe Beristford should make a move into renewable energy.

Melting pot

MORE on the Labour hives. The DTI is to spend £1 million — the same amount that it has allowed to solve the millennium bug crisis — to stage an exhibition of British design and creative industries called powerhouse.uk (yes, two colons, and no I don't know why) at Horse Guards Parade in

Central London. Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, who launched plans for the exhibition yesterday, remains impressively undeterred by the fact that most of Britain's creative industries seem to be owned largely by Dutch, Japanese or American entertainment conglomerates. As with any Labour policy, more money and time seemed to have been put into the presentation than the ideology.

The glossy press release gushes: "The design of the powerhouse.uk logo symbolises an island of fizzing creativity — a melting pot of creative influences in the form of a plus symbol as an island." Beats the Millennium Dome.

Unscheduled

IN AN irony that should not be lost on Michael Jackson (the Charned 4 boss, not the pop singer with the strangely changing face), I hear that the

trendy TV channel has had to make some shock changes to its schedule to accommodate its biography of Sir Oswald Mosley — politician, adulterer, fascist, according to the Channel 4 blurb. The main casualty has been the final two episodes of the latest series of Mrs Cohen's Money, in which the resolute Bernice Cohen tackles burning issues and scandals in the financial arena.

I am assured that the two programmes will reappear once Mosley has been safely dispatched whence he came. Otherwise there might be a return of the battle of Cable Street, relocated to Horseferry Road.



Bernice Cohen has had her TV series disrupted

Son of the CD encounters hi-tech fatigue

They call them "dribblers". You would expect hi-fi buffs to be dear to their heart, but the top brass in the consumer electronics industry view the golden-aged obsessives with amused contempt. They know that new technology sells well to a small number who believe they can detect a fuzzy note at 500 yards, but the average consumer has little appetite for gadgetry that costs a bundle and renders prized music collections obsolete.

Sony is finding it tough selling its Minidisc, a CD-type product that can record as well as play and is unashamedly aimed at the cassette tape market. Industry sources claim that only seven million minidisc players have been sold worldwide to date, compared with the 250 million cassette tape decks sold every year in ghetto-blasters, car stereos and home audio systems.

alone and to try to set the standard on their own. Yesterday, the two companies were making joint presentations to the music barons in London, pushing their Super Audio CD, which people will be able to play in their old CD players. One may wonder what is in it for Sony and Philips if they cannot force us to buy another black box. The answer is that they may not care. The real profits from any new consumer wonder product lie not in making the gadgetry but in the licence fees. The decks that play a Super Audio CD may initially cost £600 or more, but the price will halve in a couple of years. Cloned versions will quickly turn the boxes into a commodity, but if the recording companies agree to promote the new CDs, Sony and Philips will earn a licence fee on every disc sold and a profit from their respective music companies.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION

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Equities race ahead

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
100	95	Heineken	100.00	+1.0	15.2
100	95	Guinness	100.00	+1.0	15.2
BANKS					
100	95	Barclays	100.00	+1.0	15.2
100	95	HSBC	100.00	+1.0	15.2
BREWERIES PUBS & REST					
100	95	Asahi	100.00	+1.0	15.2
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
100	95	Shell	100.00	+1.0	15.2
FOOD MANUFACTURERS					
100	95	Unilever	100.00	+1.0	15.2
BUILDING MATERIALS					
100	95	British Gypsum	100.00	+1.0	15.2
ELECTRICITY					
100	95	EDF Energy	100.00	+1.0	15.2
ELECTRONIC & ELECT					
100	95	HP	100.00	+1.0	15.2
HEALTHCARE					
100	95	Glaxo	100.00	+1.0	15.2
CHEMICALS					
100	95	BASF	100.00	+1.0	15.2
HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT					
100	95	Unilever	100.00	+1.0	15.2
ENGINEERING					
100	95	Bombardier	100.00	+1.0	15.2
CONSTRUCTION					
100	95	Bechtel	100.00	+1.0	15.2
DISTRIBUTORS					
100	95	Woolworths	100.00	+1.0	15.2

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
INVESTMENT TRUSTS					
100	95	Investment Trust	100.00	+1.0	15.2
ENGINEERING VEHICLES					
100	95	Engineering Vehicle	100.00	+1.0	15.2

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
OTHER FINANCIAL					
100	95	Other Financial	100.00	+1.0	15.2
PHARMACEUTICALS					
100	95	Pharmaceutical	100.00	+1.0	15.2
PRINTING & PAPER					
100	95	Printing & Paper	100.00	+1.0	15.2
PROPERTY					
100	95	Property	100.00	+1.0	15.2
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
100	95	Telecommunications	100.00	+1.0	15.2
TRANSPORT					
100	95	Transport	100.00	+1.0	15.2
OIL & GAS					
100	95	Oil & Gas	100.00	+1.0	15.2
WATER					
100	95	Water	100.00	+1.0	15.2

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
MEDIA					
100	95	Media	100.00	+1.0	15.2
MINING					
100	95	Mining	100.00	+1.0	15.2
LEISURE & HOTELS					
100	95	Leisure & Hotels	100.00	+1.0	15.2

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
RETAILERS GENERAL					
100	95	Retailer	100.00	+1.0	15.2
RETAILERS FOOD					
100	95	Retailer	100.00	+1.0	15.2
ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET					
100	95	Alternative	100.00	+1.0	15.2

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1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
BRITISH FUNDS					
SHORTS (under 5 years)					
100	95	Shorts	100.00	+1.0	15.2
LONGS (over 15 years)					
100	95	Longs	100.00	+1.0	15.2
UNDATED					
100	95	Undated	100.00	+1.0	15.2

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
INDEX-LINKED					
100	95	Index-linked	100.00	+1.0	15.2

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
RETAILERS GENERAL					
100	95	Retailer	100.00	+1.0	15.2
RETAILERS FOOD					
100	95	Retailer	100.00	+1.0	15.2
ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET					
100	95	Alternative	100.00	+1.0	15.2

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
OTHER FINANCIAL					
100	95	Other Financial	100.00	+1.0	15.2
PHARMACEUTICALS					
100	95	Pharmaceutical	100.00	+1.0	15.2
PRINTING & PAPER					
100	95	Printing & Paper	100.00	+1.0	15.2
PROPERTY					
100	95	Property	100.00	+1.0	15.2
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
100	95	Telecommunications	100.00	+1.0	15.2
TRANSPORT					
100	95	Transport	100.00	+1.0	15.2
OIL & GAS					
100	95	Oil & Gas	100.00	+1.0	15.2
WATER					
100	95	Water	100.00	+1.0	15.2

Source: FT Securities. 1 is divided by 100. All rights reserved. Figures are subject to change. Figures are subject to change.

Britain is on a learning curve at last, says Edward Fennell, who introduces a two-page report on the country's top training successes



Net benefit: staff training at the Clan Donald Centre on Skye has improved services

Commons celebrates a quiet revolution in skills

The teatime reception at the House of Commons for the 14 supreme winners of this year's National Training Awards was a quiet event — but that in itself was proof of how this important scheme has succeeded in raising a nation's awareness.

Hosted by David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, it was the culmination of a series of regional presentations in which more than 90 national winners for 1997 were announced. As they collected their crystal awards, the supreme winners could congratulate themselves on being world-class exemplars of the principle that training pays.

The ceremony marked the 11th birthday of the National Training Awards and reflected a decade in which various government departments and agencies have been struggling to raise the profile of training. That some of the hype has

gone out of the event's awards reflects the fact that part of its job has been done. Unlike in the mid-Eighties, when the scheme was conceived by the Manpower Services Commission, training is now high on the list of business priorities.

There is political agreement on the role of learning in economic prosperity, and most employers of any size have at least an outline strategy for training. The fact that more than 30 per cent of the workforce is now covered by the Investors in People standard indicates the level of progress achieved.

So where do the awards fit in? "There is a need to exemplify what's needed, and this is exactly what the National Training Awards do," Mr Blunkett said.

"They give acknowledgement to the exceptional achievements of individuals and organisations and they provide an account of what they have done. They help to

motivate people and to improve performances."

Mr Blunkett is keen to position the awards alongside the ISO 9000, the European Quality Awards and Investors in People as part of a framework of quality standards that boosts business performance across a broad front.

Although UK plc is doing better at training, there are still significant gaps — information technology and construction are two that Mr Blunkett highlights. He argues that unless Britain tackles these deficits, it may face a spiral in wage demands that could trigger high inflation.

In terms of the Government's long-term macro-economic aims, therefore, the development of the national skills base plays a key role. And anything that can contribute to that endeavour, such as the National Training Awards, has a welcome place.

As ever, the variety of winners is impressive, ranging from such massive corporations as the Halifax, Michelin and Whitbread Inns to small leisure and tourism outfits such as the Clan Donald Visitor Centre on the island of Skye, and the Pleasurewood Hills Theme Park in Lowestoft, Suffolk.

In general, however, smaller organisations are less well-represented than in the past, and many of the most successful organisations are schools and colleges, which have been spurred on by the education league tables.

But if the theme of the National Training Awards is that training pays, then perhaps the best exponent among this year's winners is the money broker Prebon Yamane, one of 18 organisations authorised to practise by the Bank of England.

Competition is tough but it is hard to differentiate between one broker and another.

So in a sector that has little formal workplace education, David Hayes, the Prebon Yamane training manager, aimed to make his mark by developing an innovative course for young brokers that was accredited by Birkbeck College, London.

The staff who took part have proved much more adaptable than their predecessors, and the firm now enjoys much greater flexibility than its rivals. Graduates of the course are proving themselves to be among the best performers in his organisation.

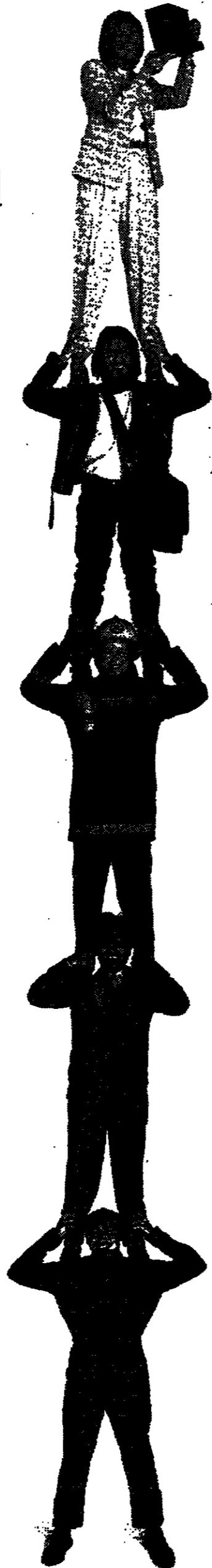
For Prebon Yamane, success in the National Training Awards has not only put a focus on the importance of training — other brokers are rushing to copy the firm's initiative — but has also given David Hayes's training function much greater credibility as a generator of profits for the firm. "I was amazed and delighted that we did so well," he says.

NTA NATIONAL WINNERS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Apollo Fire Detectors Ltd, Havant, Hants</p> <p>Audlow Services Ltd, Staplehurst, Kent</p> <p>Kelly Barfoot, Grantham, Lincolnshire</p> <p>Barnades, Stockton on Tees</p> <p>Mary Bell, South Hyton, Sunderland</p> <p>Blue Arrow Personnel Services, Hemel Hempstead, Herts</p> <p>Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, King's Lynn, with The Domino Consultancy Bradford & Bingley Building Society, Crossflans, West Yorkshire</p> <p>British Steel plc, Redcar, Cleveland</p> <p>Cafe Spice Ltd, London</p> <p>Caithness Glass Ltd, Wick, with Calhoun & Sutherland Enterprise Ltd</p> <p>Cardiff Community Healthcare NHS Trust, Cardiff</p> <p>Cheshire Fire Brigade, Winsford, Cheshire</p> <p>City of Liverpool Community College, Liverpool, with The Liverpool Daily Post and Echo</p> <p>Clan Donald Visitor Centre, Armadale, Isle of Skye</p> <p>Judy Clark, Nunthorpe, Middlesex</p> <p>Eddie Clapton, Alfreton, Derbyshire</p> <p>The Co-operative Bank Ltd, Manchester</p> <p>Stephen Casway, Mountain Ash, Mid Glamorgan</p> <p>Darlington Memorial Hospital NHS Trust, Darlington</p> <p>David S Smith Packaging, Rugby, Warwickshire</p> <p>Derbyshire County Council, Ripley, Derbyshire</p> <p>George Dodds, Bangor, Northern Ireland</p> <p>Tina Donovan, Cardiff</p> <p>Eastek 2000, Ipswich, Suffolk, with Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education</p> <p>Eastern Generation Ltd, Retford, Nottinghamshire</p> <p>Ernst & Young, St Helier, Jersey</p> <p>European Components Company, Belfast</p> <p>The Excelsior Hotel, West Drayton, Middlesex</p> <p>Ferodo Ltd, High Peak, Derbyshire</p> <p>Galca Holdings, Craigavon, Northern Ireland</p> <p>Neil Griffin, Harrogate</p> <p>Halifax Direct, Leeds</p> <p>Stephanie Haselden, Lurgan, Northern Ireland</p> <p>Hawthornes Nursing Home, Peterlee, Co Durham</p> <p>Marlene Hitchcock, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire</p> <p>Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust, Hereford</p> <p>Hydro Agri (UK) Limited, Immingham, Lincolnshire</p> <p>Interface Europe Limited, Berkhamsted, Herts</p> <p>M&K Ross Limited, Warrington</p> <p>Jarvis Hotels Plc, High Wycombe</p> <p>John Deere Ltd, Langan, Notts, with Brooksbury College</p> <p>King George's Comprehensive School, South Shields, South Tyneside</p> <p>Tyne & Wear</p> <p>Rachel Kirk, Rodmell, East Sussex</p> | <p>Lancaster & Thorpe, Derby</p> <p>Landmark Insurance, Northampton</p> <p>Gerry McStravick, Eglinton, Londonderry</p> <p>Malin Court, Ayrshire</p> <p>Manpower PLC, London</p> <p>Marshall-Tudor Ltd, Hastings, E Sussex</p> <p>Martin Express International, Sutton in Ashfield</p> <p>Steve Mercer, Rochdale</p> <p>Michelin Tyre PLC, Stoke-on-Trent</p> <p>Graham Murray, Leicester</p> <p>NACCO Materials Handling (NI) Limited, Craigavon, Northern Ireland</p> <p>The Nerve Centre, Derry City, Northern Ireland</p> <p>New Look Group Limited, Weymouth, Dorset</p> <p>Susie Newton, Essex</p> <p>NICOD Training Centre, Ballymena, Northern Ireland</p> <p>Northern Ireland Film Commission, Belfast, with Ulster Television</p> <p>P&O Short Sea Ship Management Limited, Dover, Kent</p> <p>Pinfield & Pontefract NHS Trust, West Yorkshire</p> <p>Pleasurewood Hills Theme Park, Lowestoft, Suffolk</p> <p>Denis Pollock, Harborough, Essex</p> <p>Prebon Yamane (UK) Ltd, London</p> <p>Priory Primary School, Dudley</p> <p>Project Challenge, Halifax, West Yorkshire</p> <p>Presential, Reading</p> <p>Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet, Herts</p> <p>RJB Mining (UK) Ltd, Mansfield, Notts</p> <p>Scottish Widows, Edinburgh, with BPA</p> <p>Corporate Facilitation Services UK Exploration and Production, Aberdeen</p> <p>Southern Electric, Maidenhead, Berkshire</p> <p>Stralvors Gaining Products, Falmouth, Cornwall</p> <p>Sua Valley Foods Ltd, Blaenavon, Gwent, with G & J Partnership</p> <p>Texting Technology Ltd, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan, in conjunction with Swansea Institute of Higher Education</p> <p>Thresher Training, Welwyn Garden City, Herts</p> <p>Tinsome Limited, Kettering, Northants</p> <p>TNT UK Limited, Atherstone, Warwickshire</p> <p>TR Eastcings Ltd, Uckfield, East Sussex</p> <p>The Training Exchange, Dunnington, South Yorkshire</p> <p>Training Services, Dundonald, Northern Ireland, in conjunction with Europa Tool Co Ltd</p> <p>United Disableds, Alton</p> <p>Varyl Perkins, Peterborough</p> <p>Varnicant Limited, Pershore, Worcs</p> <p>The Walked Garden Centre, South Queensferry, West Lothian</p> <p>Heather Walker, Dundonald, Northern Ireland</p> <p>Dawn Way, Derby</p> <p>Whitbread Inns, Luton</p> <p>Wight Merch Hotels Ltd, Shanklin, Isle of Wight</p> <p>Workability Rural, Uckfield, East Sussex</p> <p>Zeneca Huddersfield Works, Huddersfield</p> |
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Cleaning staff end up running the shop

Rodney Hobson highlights the imagination and achievement of this year's 14 supreme winners

Three office cleaners who felt they had more to offer their company ended up running a shop serving other employees and providing cover for reception and administration.

Dawn Way, the supervisor, says: "Before we started training we had no extra responsibilities and were, like most office cleaners, taken very much for granted."

She was keen to have formal management training. One colleague, Irene Tongue, wanted to improve her basic writing skills, while the third member of the trio, Maggie Mison, wanted to learn to type. The three, working for Hero Drinks Group, based at Kegworth, near Derby, attended training sessions in a variety of disciplines, and the site shop they opened has now produced sales saving Hero Drinks more than £50,000 a year.

Steve Mercer had a lucky break when he landed a temporary job with Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council, helping the direct labour team to clear the Christmas backlog of domestic refuse. Mr Mercer had left the RAF at the age of 21 after four years' service and was ill-prepared for civilian life. The Rochdale job was made permanent and Mr Mercer took a heavy goods vehicle driving course followed by a remarkable variety of other courses and qualifications in management, accountability, health and safety, food hygiene, environmental management and control of infections.

Another former RAF man, Graham Murray, had his career as an electrical engineer cut short by a serious eye accident. He had four years of medical treatment and part-time work to fund his

studies. His reward for ten years of pursuing qualifications was a masters degree in training and development from Sheffield University. He is now responsible for the training of 1,350 employees at GEC Alsthon.

Heather Walker was the first female non-engineer to rise to the position of production manager at European Components, a company with 700 employees. She joined 17 years ago as an assembly operator but her training to NVQ level 4 in management, plus management diplomas meant she has been able to help her employer to improve labour efficiency, cut the cost of materials and reduce product defects.

Lillian Bushby of Wight Merchants says: "Shops and hotels were rapidly going out of business on the Isle of Wight. If our hotels went down, we would automatically lose our homes as well as our jobs because the hotels are privately owned and run by husband-and-wife teams."

With advice and financial help from the IOW Training and Enterprise Council, hotel owners learnt about marketing, design, finance, public relations and computers. All the hotels involved have saved existing jobs and taken on extra staff.

Three years ago Manpower, the employment agency, realised that its approach to employing people with disabilities was hampered by a lack of experience and knowledge. A training programme highlighting the needs and rights of the disabled means that Manpower can now provide a better service for its client list of 15,000 businesses and can employ the 2.4 million disabled people of working age to fill skills gaps. The programme determination



Lecturer Rachel Kirk helps inmates at Lewes Prison to develop their computing skills

of Rachel Kirk, inmates at Lewes Prison can develop skills in information technology and use their training to gain a place in society after their release. Rachel had planned a career in speech therapy, but the two evenings a week she spent teaching at Wandsworth Prison to help fund her training revealed a natural talent for helping students with learning difficulties. She trained as a lecturer in further and adult education, gaining an honours degree. Only six students attended the first class at Lewes in 1993. Now there is a waiting list.

The dash for gas among electricity power generators meant falling revenue for Thoresby Colliery in Nottinghamshire — and therefore a need to cut costs. Supervisors make up a fifth of Thoresby's workforce, so RJB Mining, the owner of the colliery, set aside four Sundays to train them to identify opportunities to cut costs and to put the measures into practice. Annual savings have reached £1 million.

With 36 per cent of pupils on the special needs register and 44 per cent receiving free school meals, Priory Primary School in Dudley, West Midlands, felt it needed to use the skills of parents and the community if pupils were to

achieve more. The scheme included adult education programmes and staff training.

Three well-established girls' grammar schools existed in the London Borough of Barnet, but staff at Queen Elizabeth's School felt they could fill a significant gap in opportunities for boys by becoming a selective entry boys' grammar school. This meant raising the school's standards, restructuring management and planning and extending the responsibilities of a small group of senior staff to a new tier of middle management. The answer was a three-year Institute of Management training programme.

Caithness Glass, the giftware maker, nearly cracked when it won a prestigious contract to supply 10,000 pieces of glassware and 3,500 rosebowl to commemorate the tercentenary of Bank of Scotland. After winning the contract, the Wick firm realised that only one employee had the skills to produce the rosebowl — but seven glassblowers and seven replacements shared their skills and within two months had moulded into a team capable of meeting the assignment in time.

All workers at Texturing Technology are recruited from jobcentres in West Glamorgan. The Fort Talbot company was set up in 1992 to

transform the UK metal rolling industry by introducing a new high-tech technique. The problem was that the skills needed did not exist locally, so a training programme was established with the commercial services department of Swansea Institute of Higher Education. From a standing start, Texturing Technology now supplies five British Steel plants and three aluminium processors — Alcan, Alcoa and Star Aluminium.

Management at J and K Ross, a family firm making safety equipment, realised that fresh skills were needed to improve profits, so opportunities for training were made available to all employees. The result has been better communications and planning.

Cutting costs at Cormorant Alpha and Dunlin Alpha, two North Sea oil platforms, was a tall order. Manpower was a major cost, but manning levels were already low. The challenge for Shell Exploration and Production was to increase the flow of oil by 1 per cent — the equivalent of 35 jobs. A complex training programme, provided on the platform, has helped to improve profitability by 19 per cent.

How the minister aims to make life a long, lucrative lesson

Edward Fennell on Labour's new plans to plug our yawning skills gaps

For those used to hearing David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, talk about developments in our schools and colleges, the coming weeks will offer the chance to see him in a new light.

The Government is about to publish its proposals for developing lifelong learning in a consultation paper that will outline initiatives such as the University for Industry and Individual Learning Accounts.

Above all, it will begin the move towards creating a culture where education and training are part of a seamless process. For many professionals in the field of human resource development, it cannot come soon enough.

The merger of the two government departments of Education and Employment was one of the unexpected bonuses of the last years of John Major's premiership. With the long-term decline of unskilled jobs, it was recognised that employment was dependent on skills, and hence both ministries should be concerned with the common issue of boosting the quality of the nation's skill base. Nevertheless, the fact that the amalgamation took place took almost everyone by surprise.

Mr Blunkett thus enjoys the privilege of inheriting the right ministerial structure to create meaningful change. But it is still incumbent upon him to make the merger work and to realise the full potential of the new combined department.

One of his first actions has been to set up a Skills Taskforce, which will serve as his antennae for monitoring trends in skills and employment. As he points out, a variety of statistics are available to record what is happening in education, training and the jobs marketplace. But nowhere are they collected together. An overall view is now essential if the Government is to develop a strategic position on the country's skill needs and to direct action to combat shortages.

Mr Blunkett says: "Govern-



David Blunkett: creating motivation for teenagers

ment cannot meet the skills gap by itself, but we can provide indicative planning that will shape the responses of Tecs [training and enterprise councils], further education colleges and the other parties involved as to where the skills gaps are likely to be."

A crucial new element in the equation has been the establishment over the past few months of a network of National Training Organisations. These are based on specific industrial sectors, such as the construction industry and the motor industry, and have the dual task of monitoring skill trends and also overseeing developments such as the modern apprenticeship scheme and the forthcoming national traineeship for school-leavers. They will also have a key role in providing careers information for schools and colleges to help to motivate young people considering their futures.

This is where one of the advantages of the new merged department can be seen. The

unskilled, unemployed 20-year-old was the unmotivated, unqualified school-leaver of five years earlier. Good habits of acquiring knowledge and skills must be picked up by people when they are at school. That is why Mr Blunkett, in his package of reforms, is putting such strong emphasis on the New Start Strategy, which aims to increase the motivation of disaffected young people in their last years at school.

He plans to develop opportunities for 14 and 15-year-olds to gain a wider range of experiences so that they can start developing vocational skills at an earlier stage and appreciate the link between learning and employability. The biggest, brightest hope for the future lies in the University for Industry, of which much was made during the election. Details are still unconfirmed, but in essence this virtual university will aim to use information technology to make learning (and that includes skills updating) more accessible than ever before.

Mr Blunkett is aware that this is not the first time such an initiative has been attempted. After the success of Harold Wilson's Open University, Margaret Thatcher's Government attempted to launch an Open College. It did not make much impact, despite airtime on Channel 4, and gradually it shrivelled away.

While in opposition, Mr Blunkett commissioned research to analyse reasons for the Open College's failure. These were found to include bad timing, insufficient financial support and inadequate technology. He does not want to make the same mistakes.

There will be a lot of political capital invested in the new university. If it succeeds, it will be a touchstone for the successful merging of education and training. If it fails, it will be back to the drawing board yet again for those who yearn to make Britain a learning society.

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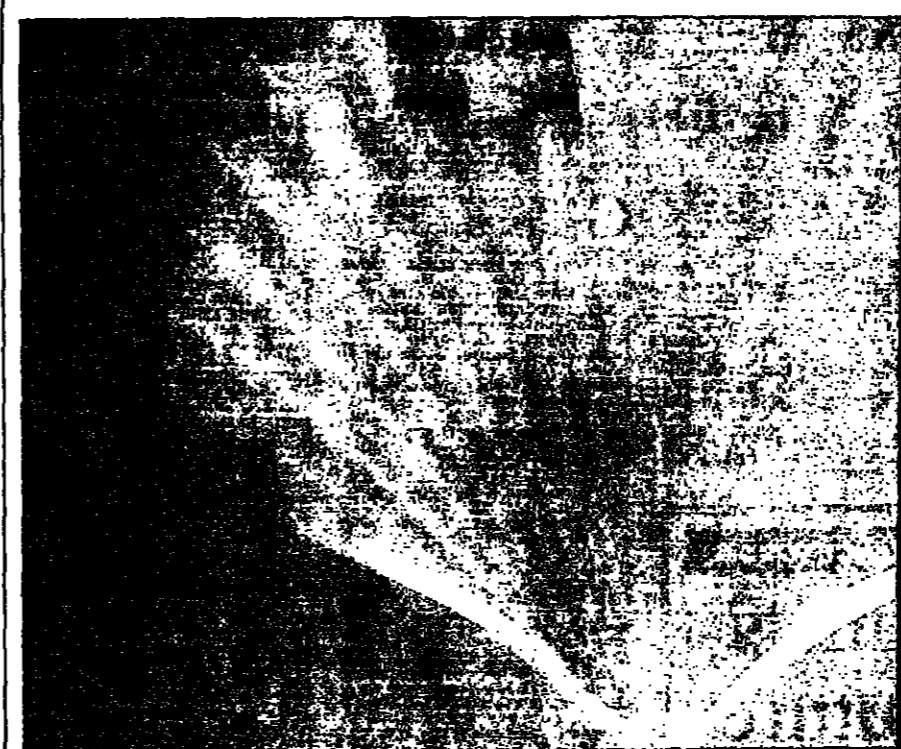
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The end is Nye for the town dwellers

Andy Lavender meets the writer of *Men Behaving Badly*, who has now turned his bleary, beady eye on country living

Simon Nye is the sort of ordinary bloke you wouldn't look twice at if you passed him in the street. Yet he has a distinct notoriety. For he it was who wrote *Men Behaving Badly*. The sitcom laid bare the beery, leery world of the New Lad, in the process winning ten awards and a huge following, and contributing to the backlash against decades of feminism.

Fans of the programme will know that its central characters, Gary and Tony, spend much of their time plotting various gratifying activities, and the rest attempting to carry them out. "I certainly don't want to be known as somebody who only does rather broad characters who yrnit over each other," Nye observes. Which partly explains his recent spate of activity: the first fruits of which come to our screens next Tuesday.

How Do You Want Me?, Nye's new comedy drama series for the BBC, is set in a small village in Sussex, not unlike that in which Nye grew up.

"I think there's enough of a divide between country and city for that to be worth writing about still," Nye remarks. "I wanted to put somebody suddenly into an alien environment and see what happened." Enter Dylan Moran, the Perrier Award-winning comedian makes his acting debut as Ian, who moves to the countryside in order to stay with his wife, played by Charlotte Coleman. She was unable to remain in London. He doesn't think much of country life. You get the idea.

"Not only is Ian alienated, but his involvement with people from the country brings out the amargous in them, because it reminds them of how shut off they are," says Nye. "They're the people who have stayed, they've not gone, they've wings of gone abroad or gone out to the city. There's some mad behaviour from the in-laws which I hope is credible, which is brought out by people closing ranks and feeling that they're being mocked by this outsider." So who is the butt of the joke? Town or country? "Well, everybody is really," Nye replies. "That's the way it is with my

comedy. Everybody's the butt, and everybody's the hero, if that doesn't sound too grand."

Nye was initially a translator of French and German before turning his hand to novel-writing. *Men Behaving Badly* started out in this form, as did his comedy series for Carlton Television, *Frank Stubbs Promotes*. He agrees that television comedy is his medium, however.

"Everybody else wants to be known as a writer rather than a comedy writer or a soap writer or whatever," he says. "But in the end I like a joke. It keeps the writing process going. You don't hear the words 'excitement' and 'sitcom' in one sentence these days, but from a production point of view it's great to hear your lines laughed at. Having said that, the sitcom form obviously creates constraints which I was happy to avoid in *How Do You Want Me?*." Nye is in the lush setting of Buckinghamshire, you couldn't do this series with an audience present. It's a fusion of comedy and real life, maybe. With sitcom the studio audience is always going to throw up a barrier."

In the meantime, the audience towards the pastures occupied by writers such as Andrew Davies and Alan Plater, craftsmen who can turn a powerful story as well as a good joke. In the meantime he is working through a gamut of comedy styles: witness another new BBC series, *The Last Salute*, co-written with Tim Binding, which follows the fortunes of an idealistic AA patrolman in the 1950s.

Nye describes it as "a bit of a throwback to Ealing Comedy. It's Tim's idea, and it appeals to my *Dad's Army* side. But I don't know whether people will respond to a show that's nearly 40 years ago and presents a rather cosy world."

Certainly the production style — bright colours and cartoon-like settings — provides lashings of parody to offset the innocent subject-matter. The test of public opinion will come next month.

Meanwhile Nye is expanding his horizons in America, where the colours are yet brighter and where



Comedian Dylan Moran, star of the new BBC comedy drama *How Do You Want Me?*, is watched over by its creator, Simon Nye.

innocence gives way to experience. *Men Behaving Badly* — in an Americanised version which involved Nye in an advisory capacity — has just played its second series on the NBC network. And Nye is in the middle of a three-month stint in Los Angeles during which he will write the pilot episode of a new

sitcom for the same broadcaster. "I think we all see enough of American shows to have an ear for that style of comedy," he says. "In Britain we prize — rightly I think — waywardness, oddity and idiosyncrasy of speech, whereas in America they put a higher value on jokes well told and neatly turned."

A number of sitcoms on both sides of the Atlantic have expressed something of the Zeitgeist — a claim which might be made (not least by its detractors) of *Men Behaving Badly*. Nye insists that his own intentions are more modest. "If I was in the business of trying to grow a *Zeitgeist* of my own then I would

make a plea for more gentleness and for the sweeter side of relationships. But I like a rude joke, and I like seeing people being cruel to each other. At least, that's what comes out when I write."

How Do You Want Me? begins on BBC2 next Tuesday. *The Last Salute* stars on BBC1 later this year.

BRIEFLY NOTED

Hall for Sussex

OPERA: Sir Peter Hall returns to Glyndebourne for the first time in eight years to direct Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*, one of three new productions announced for the 1998 season (May 21 to August 28). The others are *Costi Jan turle*, staged by Graham Vick and conducted by Andrew Davis (the team that will mount the other Mozart-da Ponte operas in the 2000 season), and Handel's *Rodelinda*, conducted by the Baroque specialist William Christie. *Katya Kabanova*, *Le Comte Ory* and *Capriccio* are revived from last year.

Meanwhile, Garsington, the other operatic country-house, is mounting three operas at fresco in Oxfordshire between June 8 and July 5 — neighbours and law suits permitting, of course. They are Mozart's *Lucio Silla*, Rossini's *La Pietra del paragone* and Verdi's *Falsuff*.

VISUAL ART: From "Careless Talk Costs Lives" to "New Labour New Danger", from Toulouse-Lautrec to the "Hello boys" Wonderbra ad — some of the most famous posters in history will enjoy new wall-life in a blockbuster exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum this summer. *The Power of the Poster*, drawing on the V&A's poster collection of 10,000 originals, will run from April 2 to July 26, and ranges from the arty — Hockney, Lichtenstein and Cocteau represented — to the political and commercial.

POETRY: Universities and arts councils north and south of the Irish border are collaborating to set up the first Ireland Chair of Poetry. The poet who wins the three-year professorship, worth £20,000 a year, will be attached to each of the three participating universities (Trinity Dublin, Queen's Belfast and University College Dublin) in turn, and be required to be in residence at each for approximately an academic term each year.

The chair has been established to celebrate the awarding of the 1995 Nobel Prize for Literature to Seamus Heaney, and Heaney will be on the panel judging applications. Suggestions for suitable candidates should be sent to Donnell Deery, QC, 77 Malone Road, Belfast BT9 6AQ, by March 6.

OPERA: In the search for artistic integrity, four singers and a designer went to jail. Daniel Rosenthal reports

Fidelio bang to rights

The four singers from English Touring Opera who spent an afternoon at Pentonville Prison last week were not the first operatic party to venture behind bars — workshops and performances by leading companies feature in jail education programmes. But they were probably the first to set out hoping they would learn as much about the inmates as the inmates would learn from them.

The combined workshop/research session in Pentonville, North London, seemed especially valuable because ETO's latest production is Beethoven's *Fidelio* — set in a prison. So Geraint Dodd (Florestan), Mark Glanville (Pizarro), Jeffrey Lloyd Roberts (Jacquino) and Denise Mulholland (Marzelline) arrived seeking insights which might enhance their performances as, respectively, prisoner, governor, gatekeeper and warden's daughter.

Their visit was instigated by *Fidelio*'s designer, Es Devlin, in the wake of her own tour of Pentonville last November. No one would directly equate conditions there with the dank Spanish prison, circa 1800, which she has designed. Yet her brief experience of a living, breathing institution influenced the *Fidelio* set as much as the hours she spent studying Brian Keenan's account of life as a Beirut hostage. *An Evil Cradling* (also a fruitful source for Dodd).

"The photographs I took on that visit were all over the walls of my studio when I was working on the design," Devlin says. "I couldn't believe how tiny the cells were and I hope that absolute oppressiveness comes across in the set."

"But my work will be a mere backdrop if the cast just stand there and sing. Instead of working with the design to create a coherent environment in which the drama can unfold. That's why I was so keen

for them to see Pentonville."

Last Thursday Devlin brought in a model of the set and joined *Fidelio*'s assistant director, Stan Stevenson, the singers and ten prisoners in a small art room in Pentonville's education department. The first few moments were awkward with neither side quite knowing what to expect. Then Dave, who emerged as the most articulate member of the group, asked in mock earnest: "So who is this guy, Beethoven, then — is he new?" The ice was broken.

While Devlin demonstrated the set's sliding panels and lighting effects, the singers outlined *Fidelio*'s synopsis. None of the inmates knew the plot and their responses were typical of a session that was by turns darkly amusing and deeply serious.

When Glanville explained that Pizarro wants to kill Florestan as quickly as possible, someone suggested "give him some prison food". But when he described the ending, with Pizarro "apparently about to be ripped to pieces" by the liberated prisoners, softly spoken Nicholas said

indignantly: "I don't like that. You'll only make the prisoners worse than Pizarro if they are vicious at the end."

Gradually, the focus shifted on to the prisoners and their experiences of incarceration. "The worst thing is the sense of always being driven and herded," said Dave. "It wouldn't make any difference if you were Gandhi or Martin Luther King, in here you'd still be completely faceless."

Michael, who wore a white T-shirt hand-decorated with the arrows of a cartoon convict's uniform, said: "The education sessions on weekdays are a great break from being ordered about or locked up. They're the biz." Without the art sessions or other courses, added Dave, "you'd be in a rage the whole time."

The session brought one piece of detailed, practical advice. Stephenson explained that in rehearsals for the Act I scene in which the prisoners are let out into the open, Lloyd Roberts's Jacquino had been standing upstage with his back turned. "An officer wouldn't do that," said Dave. "You are expected to be a



Sing a few bars: designer Es Devlin with ETO's Geraint Dodd inside Pentonville Prison.

danger whether you're dangerous or not. He wouldn't have his back turned — though he might walk sideways, keeping an eye on them." Lloyd Roberts now does exactly that.

Having been told so much about *Fidelio*, the prisoners wanted to hear some of the

real thing. Lloyd Roberts and Mulholland obliged with an unaccompanied and enthusiastically received performance of the Act I duet in which Marzelline rejects Jacquino's marriage proposal.

Jason spoke for the whole group: "That was brilliant. I've always thought opera was

boring, but hearing it sung in English makes all the difference."

Dodd, who had said little in the classroom, described the session as a "fantastic" experience. By Friday evening, Lloyd Roberts and Mulholland had made immediate changes to their performances. "Because of what the inmates said about feeling constantly driven, my body language towards the *Fidelio* prisoners has become harsher," said Lloyd Roberts.

For Mulholland, two hours in such a male-dominated institution had made her realise "just how much of an outsider Marzelline is, a young woman surrounded by men. Jeffrey and I both felt a different rapport on stage with the prisoners. Because of the visit, we were no longer looking at them as a lump but as individuals."

"These guys are all in Pentonville for a reason, but you forget they exist as fathers or sons. We found the visit humbling."

Fidelio opens at the Cambridge Arts Theatre (01223 503333) on Feb 25, then tours until May 29. Full details on 071-820 1131

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

CATHY MARSTON

Age: 22
Profession: Dancer and choreographer.

Life as a youngster: Born in Newcastle, grew up in Cambridge. At the age of eight she began tap dancing classes; a year later ballet followed. But she wasn't a budding ballerina by any means. "I didn't really feel like studying ballet. Actually I wanted to be a police-woman because I loved Juliet Bravo, and then when my Mom told me she was really an actress I decided I wanted to be an actress. But I was too young for acting lessons, so I went to everything else that could help me to be an actress."



Getting serious: The ballet classes took off, and at the age of 16 she joined the Royal Ballet upper school. After graduating in 1994 she got a job dancing with the Zurich Ballet. Two years later she was hired by the Lucerne Ballet, and she's still there. "It's very much what I want to do dancewise, classically based but very modern and athletic."

What about the choreography? "I did a lot of choreography at school; it was one of the things that kept me sane." As a grown-up, Marston came to the attention of the Royal Ballet via its education programme, which had asked her to make a piece it could use in lecture demonstrations. Anthony Dowell, Royal Ballet director, liked what he saw and hired her to make a short ballet for last year's Dance Bites, the Royal's annual small-scale tour of experimental work.

Now she's been invited back: Her second Dance Bites commission, titled *Words Apart* (the world premiere is next Monday in Sheffield), uses 12 dancers and a chamber orchestra. Music is by Dylan Newcombe, who happens to be a dancer as well as a composer (a most unusual combination of talents). "Basically the piece is about how we get stuck for words, how speech and gesture let us down. What happens on stage is that people try to communicate, or touch one another or dance together, but somehow they are restricted to their own space. They just can't get close to people."

It should have been a happy time for all concerned: But, sadly, it wasn't. Marston's designer, Paul Andrews, died on Christmas 29 after suffering a severe asthma attack on Christmas Eve. "I remember how we sat there for hours on end, drinking glasses of red wine and cups of tea while we came up with the idea for this ballet. Paul used a piece of glass at the back of the stage and laser lights to define zones on stage. It was his way of cutting up space. *Words Apart* is dedicated to him."

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A fine sense of humours.



Everyman (Joseph Mydell) comes cheek to cheek with Death (Josette Bushell-Mingo)

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Conspiracy theories

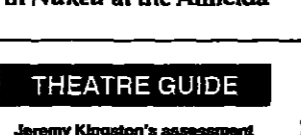
The last time Gerrard Murphy graced the Citizens stage as Shakespeare's ill-fated Scottish king almost two decades ago, the hurly-burly was centred on the fact that with typical Citz perversity, David Hayman was cast opposite as Lady Macbeth...

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Everyman

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Money doesn't talk, it shoots

From the Coen brothers' new thriller to Robin Williams acting cuddly: Geoff Brown on the Berlin Film Festival

Have a pickle, says Lena Olin in Polish *Wedding*, clearing her throat over the letter "H" in an attempt to prove her Polishness. She finds no takers, not in Claire Danes, that ripe specimen of Californian girlhood who plays her daughter, nor in Gabriel Byrne, the professional Irishman cast with equal perception as her husband. The film, directed by Theresa Conolly, is a wan comedy about the life and loves of the Pszaniak family in a run-down pocket of Detroit. Ethnic music is poured over the soundtrack like a thick sauce, but no amount of folksy detail can hide the film's true setting: *Movieland*.

The small disaster of *Polish Wedding*, the opening exhibit in the Panorama section of the Berlin Film Festival, highlights a problem for all the festival's participants, whether film-makers, buyers or critics. Like Cannes and Venice, the Berlin festival exists to celebrate film the universal language, and fly the flags of all nations. But the commercial facts of life make it harder and harder to keep a film's cultural identity pure. In casting *Polish Wedding*, Conolly did not think Polish, she thought box office. But when a film that stays true to its local time and place gets made, where is its international audience outside the festival circuit?

Hollywood is hard to resist, as Ben Kingsley and his jury members may be finding out. One day they watch something as ineffably and madly as Jacques Doillon's *Trop (Peu) d'Amour* — *Too Much (Too Little) Love* — full of teenage girls, one middle-aged artist (a film director to boot) and flaccid talk about sex and relationships under summer skies. Then they watch *The Big Lebowski* by the Coen brothers. It is not as good as their last success, *Fargo*, but it is big and bold, and connects with an audience.

So who is the big Lebowski? He is a supposed millionaire with a fat pile of debts and a flighty young wife. And he shares his surname with a laid-back hippy known as the Dude, played by Jeff Bridges, whose shambling life gets a violent shake when two thugs

mistake his identity, ruin his favourite carpet and demand: "Where's the money, Lebowski?". After that, Bridges and his bowling buddies John Goodman and Steve Buscemi get caught up in the Los Angeles underworld. Retreating from the bleak but human comedy of *Fargo*, Joel and Ethan Coen have created an erratic, heartless, farcical thriller, more an array of striking scenes than a cohesive movie. You forget its flaws, though, in the face of its imagination and cheek.

The film gets even better if you put it alongside *Good Will Hunting*, the most mainstream venture yet from fellow American maverick Gus Van Sant. The tinkling piano, soft strings and woodwind score tell us that this is Hollywood in sensitive mode. Not that we need reminding: if you have a story about a rough natural genius from working-class Boston and a psychiatrist's attempt to tame him, you are bound to find your heart being tugged. I found it comparatively easy to resist, thanks to the lack of any genuine feeling, an overstretched plot line and the presence of Robin Williams, acting cuddly as the psychiatrist. The jury may react differently; many people already have.

Yet even the most hardened critic must admit that this pile of slush has a purpose and clarity some European competition entries lack. Germany's hopeful, Michael Gwisdek's *The Big Mambo*, did not get many people dancing, other than Germans. Britain, too, did itself few artistic favours by offering *Girls' Night*, a laugh-and-cry job from TV writer Kay Mellor and director Nick Hurran, featuring Julie Walters and Brenda Blethyn as two friends, one dying of cancer, who fly to Las Vegas after winning the jackpot at bingo. Real suffering, we are told, inspired this film, and the agony of losing loved ones does indeed poke through at times. Not enough, though, to want to wipe from the mind Hurran's gauche antics behind the camera, the star performer's tiring caricatures, or the appearance of a bemused Kris Kristofferson as a gentleman cowboy.

But not all is doom and gloom. Brazil came up smiling

with Walter Salles's *Central Station*. It deals with matters that could easily become sentimental: a boy orphaned in Rio, searching for his father; a lonely woman who writes letters for the illiterate, and joins in the boy's quest. But Salles keeps the bitter social context well in view and engineers some stunning widescreen images. The film has both beauty and bite, and a commanding performance by Fernanda Montenegro; something the jury may take note of.

They might also remember *Same Old Song*, the latest film by Alain Resnais and already a hit in France. Now 75, the director of *Last Year in Marienbad* has moved away from making taxing puzzles: he now prefers films mixing boisterous artifice with a tender regard for human frailties. This new opus sends a Paris collection of couples, sisters, friends and would-be lovers criss-crossing through each other's lives.

Sounds familiar? But the novelty is that whenever a difficult thought needs expressing, they lip-synch to tiny snippets of popular French songs performed by Edith Piaf, Charles Aznavour, Sylvie Vartan and others. Resnais describes his film as a homage to Dennis Potter. But this is no *Pennies from Heaven* pastiche: the film's intricate whimsy is all his own.

Outside the competition, the usual strange blooms flourish: Asian fireworks, Belgian peculiarities, Russian dirges and Slovenian nightmares. Not to mention *Open Your Eyes*. This is the second movie by Alejandro Amenabar, who scored a big festival hit two years ago with *Thesis*. In Spain, the film has already jumped to the top of the country's all-time box office burners: perhaps partly because mystified audiences kept on returning to understand the plot. There is much, indeed, to sort out in the life of César, a handsome ladies' man left hideously disfigured when a jealous lover spins their car off the road. How much is real? How much is a dream? Amenabar, all of 25, drives his fantastic story forward with style and authority.



Jeff Bridges as Dude, the hapless hippy mistaken for a murky millionaire in the Coen brothers' *The Big Lebowski*

Bach to the bone

A SUPERMARKET trolley on the line north of King's Cross meant that for the first time I was late for a concert. As a result, I missed Bach's D major Harpsichord Concerto, the first item in the opening programme of the Purcell Quartet's Bach Weekend at a packed Wigmore Hall. My loss, to judge by the spry performance captured a year or so ago on CD by the group with Robert Woolley, its regular keyboard-player.

Luckily, I did manage to catch the three early Bach cantatas that followed (BWV 4, 131 and 196) which were performed with such natural eloquence and musicality that sheer enjoyment quickly dissipated any residual frustration. A heated debate is currently being played out in the pages

CONCERT

of the journal *Early Music* as regards the musical forces Bach might have had at his disposal for the performance of his cantatas. Did he really want three or four singers on each line and a similar number of violinists on each part? And did he end up with only one in each case?

Such debates between researchers and performers are not merely academic: the scale on which the cantatas are heard inherently colours our perception of them. The "minimalist" approach as adopted by the Purcell Quartet draws the listener into the textual and musical rhetoric in an intimate and immediate way, and with singers and players as excellent as these the experience is utterly convincing.

Real teamwork was much in evidence here, between the members of the instrumental ensemble as well as with the vocal quartet of well-established soloists, Emma Kirby, Charles Humphries, standing in for Michael Chance, Mark Padmore and Peter Harvey produced some superb consort singing: every word was clear, every phrase defined and coloured and there were no problems of balance.

In the grateful acoustic of the Wigmore Hall, at least, the Purcell Quartet showed that minimalist Bach can work extraordinarily well.

PROFESSOR IAN TESS KNIGHTON

Subtle shades of an elegant age

Any mention of string sections usually prompts thoughts of aural wallpaper in hotel lobbies and heavy-handed attempts to graft violins on to jazz combos à la Charlie Parker. Add to that unsympathetic milking of middle-of-the-road pop concerts, and the Luddites begin to suspect that there might, after all, be something to be said for electronic keyboards.

But sometimes this awkward hybrid does come off successfully. John Wilson's compact ensemble is a case in point. A 25-year-old graduate of the Royal College of Music, Wilson has been making a name for himself as a champion of Eric Coates.

He also happens to be a devotee of

JAZZ
John Wilson Strings
Pizza on the Park

Harold Arlen and Irving Berlin, as well as arrangers such as Robert Farnon and Billy May. His string orchestra, constructed around a nimble jazz quintet, gives him the opportunity to indulge these dual enthusiasms. The result is the richly upholstered sound of the kind that used to be heard in the grander class of nightclub and restaurant before the advent of disco dancing.

Using barely a dozen string players

and the minimum of amplification, the group works in extremely subtle colours. Badly written settings would have had the effect of dousing the quintet in quick-setting treacle. Wilson's players — augmented by guest vocalist Sarah Moule — passed the real test on a swinger such as *That Old Devil Moon*, the strings providing sprightly counter-melodies without treading on the quintet's toes.

The presence of a guitarist in the quintet helped to maintain the momentum, and the saxophone flowed elegantly. It is all highly anachronistic, of course, but then so is a vintage Bentley.

CLIVE DAVIS

VISUAL ART: We'll all grow to love the Angel, says John Russell Taylor

Now that it's up, the only significant question is: how does it look? It may seem unnecessary to insist that there is an important aesthetic dimension to Antony Gormley's *Angel of the North*, now treated over-looked the AI as it prepares to sweep northward past Gateshead.

But during the past few months there has been endless controversy over the nature of the commission, the material in which the figure has been cast, the cost of the operation and who pays. Not to mention the conflicting political correctness of approving public commissioning of art and support of public art in toto because it is allegedly a "fascist" manoeuvre, using authoritarian means to force people to look at what the commissioners approve of rather than what they might choose for themselves.

Undeniably, anyone going north by motorway or by rail can hardly avoid looking at the *Angel*. That has always been the intention, authoritarian or not. But after all, the same argument could be applied to any largish building, and if something is designed as a celebration then it might as well put over its point loud and clear.

Gormley's *Angel* is 55ft high, with a 175ft wingspan (approximately that of a jumbo jet), made of rusty weathered steel. It is credited as being one of the biggest public sculptures in the world, rivaling the Statue of Liberty and the Christ of Corcovado.

Given all those statistics



Have wings, will stay put: Antony Gormley's *Angel of the North* rears over the AI

Big, but is it beautiful?

one's first thought on approaching it is that it is not so big as expected. But while the Christ is on top of a mountain overlooking Rio, and the Statue of Liberty is raised on a lofty plinth, the *Angel* just rears straight out of a hillock very close to a group of tower blocks. Also, the fact that it is much wider than it is high gives it a rather stumpy effect. But then, those seeing Stonehenge for the first time usually feel disappointed because it is dwarfed by its context on

Salisbury Plain. And when you get really close to the *Angel* the physical effect is overwhelming.

Presumably its purpose, apart from signalling the renewed vigour of Gateshead and the new North East in general, is to provoke response. No doubt Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council and Northern Arts, who have footed the bill with help from the lottery, the European Development Fund and private sponsors, would prefer it

if people liked it, but if they do not at least let them react, be aware that there is such a thing as art in the world, and that it impinges on them.

To the question of whether they like what they see one can answer with reasonable certainty that if they do not now, they will: like the Eiffel Tower, the *Angel* has all the hallmarks of a monument which will graduate very quickly from red rag to mascot. In any case, a public awareness survey last September showed 62 per cent of respondents could identify an image of the *Angel*, and a healthy majority of locals thought that this kind of public art was a good idea. And the local football team has just renamed itself the Angels. How much further can popular acceptance go?

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Gardening in the sky

The Germans love them and now Britain is following suit. Lois Letts on roof gardens

In Britain, a "roof garden" has traditionally called to mind a dusty paved area, perched atop a city flat, decorated by a few pot-bound geraniums. But in Germany, where the law calls for a third of all new buildings to have green space attached to them, the building of meadow-like roof gardens is a flourishing business.

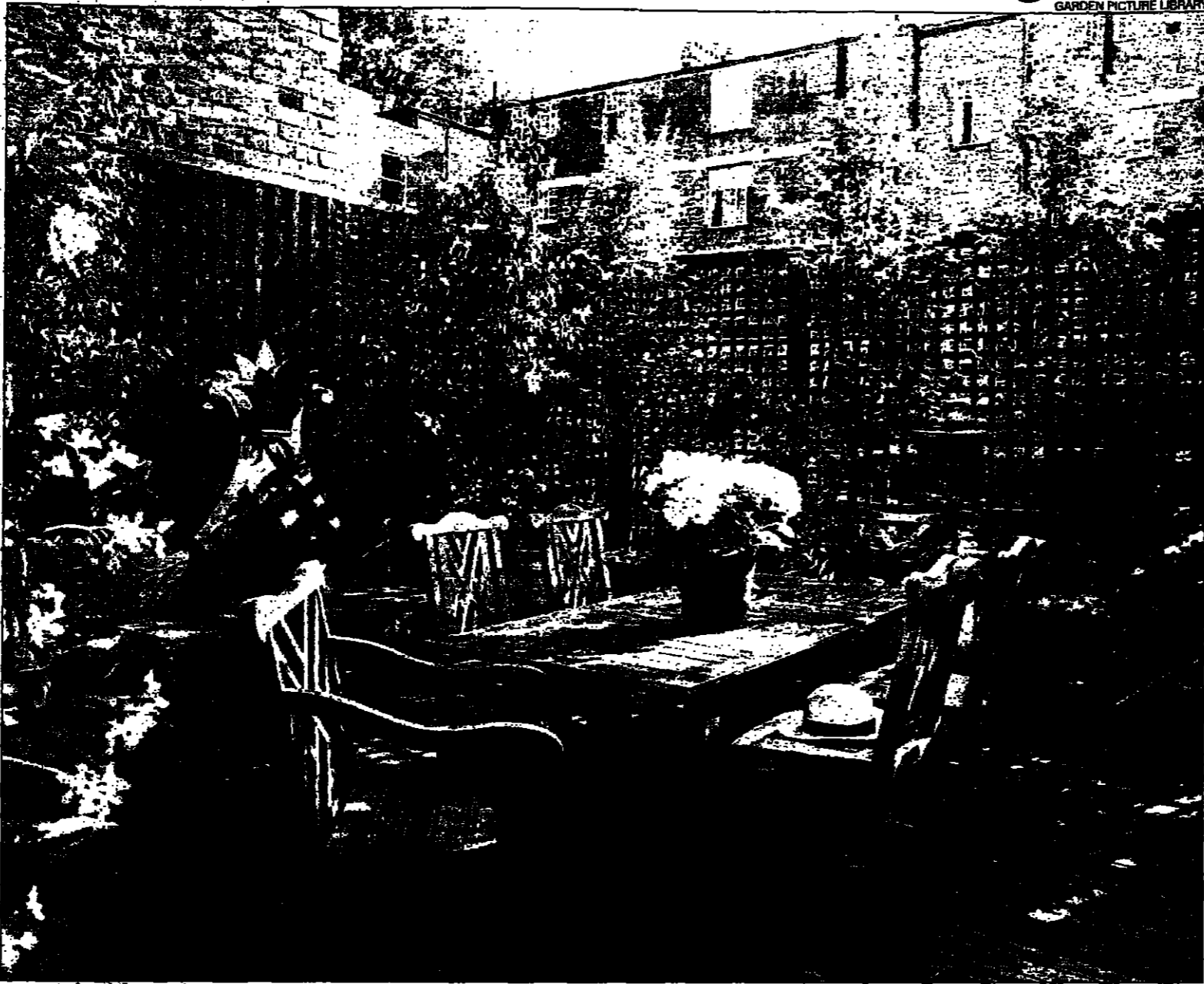
Their examples are now being followed by British homeowners. The technology has, of course, long been there — the Roof Garden nightclub in Kensington was built in the late Thirties. But only now, it seems, are a number of people beginning to realise the myriad benefits of adding a properly installed green roof to our homes. Lush lawns of billiard-table smoothness, planted with trees and herbaceous borders, are sprouting up across cities like the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

Greenscape, which has operated mainly on the Continent until now, is one of the new companies that will put in a green roof for you. The installation typically costs £55 per square metre on a roof which is waterproofed and structurally sound. The fitting consists of waterproof membrane, drainage layer, root barrier, root anchorage net and water-absorbent soil additive. For the very brave, Greenscape also provides this as a DIY package. Soils and grass are usually sourced by local landscape gardeners and will put the bill up by another £50 per square metre.

Installation costs will be more than recouped, however, when it comes to selling the property. John Bradley, project manager of Greenscape, says: "Typically, a garden will add at least 10 per cent to the value of a property. But if you were to build a sizeable roof garden on the top-floor flat of a property in Battersea, it might be substantially bigger than other gardens in the area, and the flat might be looking for 20 per cent."

He recommends that anyone thinking of doing it themselves should have a structural engineer check the roof over first. "Can it take the weight of a roof garden?" he asks. "Is it going to collapse under the combined weight of 30 friends?"

Economic factors aside, there are ecological benefits to be reaped from the investment, says Joe Simpson, the



The choice of plants that will grow on a roof is large. Only those plants which are sensitive to wind or prefer humid, woody conditions should be avoided

editor of Eco-magazine. "Birds and endangered butterflies are given a safe, sheltered environment in which to live," he explains.

The roof garden creates its own humid microclimate, meaning that dust particles, during long, hot summers, are much less of a problem for asthma sufferers. It effectively scrubs the air.

For gardeners, the choice of plants which will grow on a roof is gratifyingly large. Only those plants which are sensitive to wind should be avoided, such as hollyhock, or those which prefer woody, humid conditions. Otherwise, varieties of rose, clematis, campanula, hydrangea and wisteria will all thrive during summer, while viburnum, cotoneaster and conifers will add colour to the winter days. In principle, trees of 12 metres can be grown, though in practice those with low branches are more suitable.

Green roofs still being in their infancy in Britain, there are no hard and fast rules

about what to grow. The answer is to experiment, and if the plant flourishes then let it stay.

Greening a roof has another economic advantage for those intending to stay some time in their home. It extends the life of a roof by controlling temperature fluctuations. "In winter, if water freezes on the roof, then that area will be cold, whereas only a yard away, the sun might be shining on the waterproofing and the temperature might reach 30C," Mr. Simpson says. "Those fluctuations mean certain spots are expanding and others contracting within a small area, putting incredible stress on the roof and causing fatigue."

Green roofs alleviate that problem. Earth has a fairly high thermal mass, so it does not change temperature quickly. A layer of earth over a roof will mean a more stable temperature.

The conventional lawn and border approach is known in the trade as an "intensive" roof. The other type of green roof is an "extensive" one,

designed to look like a meadow, but with no provision for regular access. These offer many of the advantages of the intensive roof and are used increasingly for municipal projects.

Ericso-Bauder has pioneered a new treatment for extensive roofs called "hydro-planting". Seeds, nutrients and a soil substitute are mixed together into a kind of gel and then sprayed directly on to the roof.

Graham Spall, the head of the green roof division at Ericso-Bauder, has seen an explosion of interest in the technique. "Three years ago we laid two, this year we'll lay about 50. And in April we'll begin work on one of 2,400 square metres." This will cover the slightly inauspicious site of a bus station in Walsall, the title of largest extensive green roof in Britain.

Whether intensive or extensive, green roofs will probably become a much more common sight in the next 15 or 20 years. In Germany garages are often built below ground and camouflaged by a green roof.

Here, builders are finding that planning permission is much easier to come by if the new structure is less of an eyesore.

Extensions that have their contours softened by greenery will be easier to get past a planning officer.

The growing success of green roofs is highly gratifying to Arthur Quarmby, president of the British Earth Sheltering Association. For the past 22 years Mr Quarmby has lived in Britain's first earth-sheltered house in the Peak District, trying to convince a sceptical British public of the moleish joys of living underground. "I have an indoor heated swimming pool which

is flooded with sunlight," he boasts of his lighting arrangements.

But for those conventional souls wishing to live above ground, Mr Quarmby and his ilk have performed an invaluable service in developing the technology to make green roofs possible for many of us. Even in the airy heights of a city penthouse, one can now recreate the gentle country borders of a Gertrude Jekyll or a white garden fit for Sissinghurst.

Contacts: Ericso-Bauder, Suffolk (01423 25771); Euroroof, Cheshire (01606 48222); Greenscape (UK), London (0171-583 2007); A Proctor Group, Perthshire (01290 87226).

Chance for fat cats to splash out

Electricity staff have the use of £5.75m home and swimming pool

Senior employees of London Electricity are enjoying the use of one of Mayfair's grandest houses complete with a basement swimming pool.

Executives from the company, now owned by the American energy giant Entergy, have at their disposal 20 Upper Brook Street, a six-storey Mayfair townhouse. The house, on the market for £5.75 million, was bought by Entergy earlier this year for an undisclosed sum.

A spokesman for Entergy said from its New Orleans headquarters: "The house is a residence available to employees." It is entered through a semi-circular arched doorway, leading to the original wooden carved staircase. The principal rooms of the house, built in 1737 by John Simmons, include two large interconnecting reception rooms on both the ground and first floors.

There is an oak-panelled library-cum-study on the ground floor. French windows from the study and the dining room open onto a split-level garden and a garage with a studio flat.

On the lower ground floor is a large kitchen with terracotta tiled floor and a large central work space, two staff bedrooms and a swimming pool. There are five large bedrooms on the top three floors. Modern additions include a lift and secondary glazing in the front rooms.

The house was sold through the agents Wetherall, De Groot Collis and DTZ Debenham Thorpe, who were all subject to strict confidentiality clauses in their contracts.

Ownership of such a grand house is bound to reignite the debate about the newly rich "fat cats" who have benefited from the Government's privatisation of the utilities and electricity businesses.

The privatisation of electricity in 1990 and 1991 was planned by Margaret Thatcher and implemented by John Major. It created two large generating companies, PowerGen and National Power.

The floodgates for foreign investors were opened in March 1995, when the

Government sold off its remaining shares in the regional electricity companies. The attraction for American investors is the chance to compete for customers after April.

London Electricity last year cut off supplies to 14,511 homes,

almost 1 per cent of the houses it supplies, and left 24,186 customers facing court action. Industry watchers are evaluating the effect of the takeover of London Electricity and its 4,000 employees.

Mayfair has seen many of its former office buildings return to residential use. Many houses had their status changed after the Second World War and were converted to offices to alleviate the shortage of commercial sites.

The City of London, which had been badly bombed, could not accommodate all the businesses. Many temporary office planning consents expired in 1990. The biggest landlord in the area, the Grosvenor Estate, decided to turn 57 properties back to residential use.

RACHEL KELLY

Adam Barnard on the fairytale ending for a neglected London council block

From derelict to des res

An East London tower block, in such serious disrepair that its owners smashed up the bathrooms to keep out squatters, is now home to 92 families.

The case of Lewey House had become notorious in Tower Hamlets. The building was so neglected that ferns grew through the concrete floor in one room. Floors, walls and ceilings wereiddled with damp. Unable to find the millions required for refurbishment, the council put the block on the market for £1.

"The price was a token gesture," says Charles Kaiser, a development officer with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. "There were serious structural problems and a complete refurbishment was needed. We had 13 empty blocks at the time, and there were restraints on the finances available to us."

The 24-storey block, which was system-built in the 1960s, was put on the market in 1990. As a condition of purchase, the buyer was to refurbish the building with central heating, electricity, water mains, gas and insulation, and put it to residential use. The council retained the right to nominate 75 per cent of the tenants.

The decision taken by the then Liberal Democrat council eight years ago cannot have helped things. They thought it expedient to remove every bath and lavatory to keep out squatters, and the easiest way was to smash them.

"It was all muddle and muddle," says Bob Lawrence, of the Empty Homes Agency, which campaigned to have the building brought back into use. "There were seven housing sub-committees, and not one of them could reach a decision. Labour came in in 1994 and said 'Well, where



The Pearly King and Queen are impressed by the change

have all the toilets gone? This 'constructive vandalism', which is all too common, just means that refurbishment costs more."

In 1991 the housing association Bradford and Northern entered negotiations but withdrew in December 1993, to the dismay of the council, who wrote that the reversal had "effectively prevented 92 homes being offered to people in desperate housing need". The flats remained untouched until early 1996, when the North British Housing Association (NBHA) stepped in.

Trevor West, of the NBHA, says £4 million was spent on

refurbishment. They contracted United House to strip and refurbish the 270ft-high building. "It was in a terrible state," says Mr. West. "Everything had to be replaced."

Work started early in 1996, and the building was officially reopened at the end of January 1998. By then, all 92 flats had been allocated tenants. Mr. West says the operation has proved a success. "I'm delighted with it. People have been saying very positive things."

Particularly impressive is the security, always a problem with high-rise council estates. United House installed security cameras around the pe-

rimeter and in the lifts, and videophone entry systems in every flat. The entrance is controlled by a concierge.

The tenants love it. Kate Ortiz de Lejarazu, 33, who works at Bart's Hospital, has lived there for six months. She has nothing but praise for Lewey House and her tenth-floor one-bedroom flat.

"I couldn't be happier. The rooms have good proportions and are well fitted. I have a balcony, which is great in

The council put the building on the market for £1

summer. All my friends are jealous. With the security measures you feel a lot safer, and there doesn't seem any chance of being burgled. I used to live in Hackney and this is much better."

In many ways this is a fairytale ending for the troubled London high-rise, an image strengthened by the opening ceremony, which was graced by the presence of the Pearly King and Queen of the Isle of Dogs.

Dressed in suits of shimmering sequins, Chris and Joan Friend were certainly impressed. Mr. Friend said: "I saw it when it was derelict and there has been a dramatic change. It is ten times better. The security is fantastic — the best I've seen."

Mr. Lawrence, of Empty Homes, agrees. "This is very much the right sort of direction for council housing. It is a good result for the council, the NBHA and the taxpayer."

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Party can decide mixed items

Moore v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice Thorpe

after the end of the period of four years beginning with the date of the breach.

It was clear from Donatost Borough Council v Secretary of State for the Environment (1992) 91 LGR 459 that the concept of the planning unit had no part to play in a case where there had been a change from use as a single dwellinghouse to use as two or more separate dwellinghouses.

a dwellinghouse and concluded that the distinctive characteristic of a dwellinghouse was its ability to afford to those who used it the facilities required for day-to-day private domestic existence.

Brown and Others v GIO Insurance Ltd

Before Lord Justice Waller, Lord Justice Chadwick and Sir Brian Neill

whether as a matter of fact and construction of the reinsurance contracts losses arose from one or more events for the purpose of aggregation.

market man as recognised by Lord Justice Nourse in Caudle v Sharp (1995) LRLR 433.

an obligation to decide without misdirection of law.

Radar speed guns do not send message

Regina v Knightsbridge Crown Court, Ex parte Foot

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Mance

Section 5 of the 1949 Act, as amended by section 3 of the Post Office Act 1969, provides: "Any person who... (b) otherwise than under authority of the [Minister of Posts and Telecommunications] or in the course of his duty as a servant of the Crown... (f) uses any wireless telegraphy apparatus with intent to obtain information as to the contents, sender or addressee of any message... shall be guilty of an offence."

missions. Mr Calloway submitted that the police radar gun did not send or receive messages, even within the extended meaning of that term given in section 19(1).

that subsection. His Lordship also rejected the submission that the operator was the addressee of a message, that is of information, sent back by the passing motor vehicle.

Mr Sydney Kerridge, QC and Mr Andrew Propper, QC, for the appellants; Mr Jonathan Hirst, QC and Mr Michael Swainson for the respondents.

Mr Justice Laddie said that in deciding whether a person's skill and labour, which he had admittedly expended in relation to a work protected by copyright, entitled him to be treated as a joint author, it was crucial whether his skill was the right kind of skill.

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RUGBY UNION

Leicester dismiss Dwyer and hand reins to Richards

By Mark Souster

RUGBY union's revolving door saw Bob Dwyer depart from Leicester yesterday with immediate effect to be replaced in the interim by Dean Richards, who will assume responsibility for coaching and first-team affairs.

Dwyer was told on Monday night, after a lengthy board meeting, that he was being dismissed. The decision to dispense with Dwyer, who had been at Welford Road for 18 months and who had nursed the club through the labour pains of professionalism with considerable success and style, was taken after a report from Peter Wheeler, the club's chief executive. With Dwyer's contract due for renewal imminently, Wheeler had been asked to assess the various options available.

He made no recommendation, but canvassed views of senior players in his discussions. Recent results, including the loss to Saracens in the Tetley's Bitter Cup and the Allied Dunbar Premiership defeat by Gloucester, played a not insignificant part in the decision. It appears the club felt that Dwyer had achieved as much as he could and that fresh hands and ideas were needed to take it forward.

Reports of player-power and a rift, with Dwyer's contract due for renewal imminently, Wheeler had been asked to assess the various options available. Reports of player-power and a rift, with Dwyer's contract due for renewal imminently, Wheeler had been asked to assess the various options available.

with regard to his coaching philosophy, Wheeler said that the sacking had had nothing to do with a clash of personalities. Richards, who has a two-year contract, assumes immediate command and the likelihood is that Joel Stransky, one of several world-class players enticed to the club by Dwyer, will be confirmed over the next few days as the backs' coach in a new structure being put in place.

Wheeler paid tribute to Dwyer's achievements. In his first season, Leicester had won the Pilkington Cup, finished fourth in the league and were runners-up in the Heineken Cup. "I do feel disappointed when this sort of thing happens," Wheeler said. "I regard Bob as a friend, one whom I have shared some intense moments over past 18 months. I believe he has enhanced the reputation and history of this club."

"I am sure his phone today will be red hot from clubs around the world. The decision was not made on financial grounds, but was made on the basis of achieving our objective to become the best club in Europe." Dwyer expressed his surprise at the rapid turn of events. However, it appeared that he was prepared for a parting of the ways when he spoke after the defeat by Gloucester. "If a player is not producing the goods, he should look elsewhere and, if a coach is not producing the goods, he should also look elsewhere," he said.

In a statement yesterday, Dwyer said: "It is for others to provide the precise reasons for this decision. From my part, I would like to thank the key players at the club for their work and support. "In my opinion, it has not been an unsuccessful time for Leicester. There have been some disappointing results this year for a variety of reasons, but I was grateful for the support I received in recent days from the senior players at this club. I wish them the very best for the future."

Those senior players were, by and large, surprised by the decision, which was relayed personally to the club's England contingent yesterday by Wheeler and Richards. Martin Johnson, the club captain, said: "Bob's tenure of office has been very positive. Dean has a real job to do in the last three months of the season, but everybody will support him because, as a player and as a person, he is the most admired figure at Welford Road."

Healey admitted that there had been differences of opinion - "but it was not worth holding grudges. People have different ideas about rugby but Bob was an excellent coach," he said. Richard Cockerill, the England hooker, expressed his surprise. "I think Bob has done a very good job for the club, but clearly the board has decided his future lies elsewhere. We will just get on with playing and make sure the club is still successful."

Richards, who was on the bench last night for a second XV game, said how honoured he felt at being promoted. "From a playing point of view, the aim is to improve on our league position. Bob has left us with a good structure. He is a difficult act for me to follow. "I hope the players will pull together. Our aim is to win every game from now until the end of the season." In what style, given Richards's pedigree as a player, remains to be seen.

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Dwyer: surprise



Richards: challenge



Vickery, the Gloucester prop forward, gets into the action at an England training session yesterday. Photograph: David Rogers/Allsport

Woodward puts his faith in Vickery

By David Handys Rugby Correspondent

THERE is no guarantee that England will be third-time lucky with their choice of tight-head prop, but given an unexpected opportunity against Wales at Twickenham on Saturday, Phil Vickery intends to make the most of it. Vickery, from a rich tradition of Gloucester front-row forwards, is one of three changes to the side that disappointed in the opening Five Nations Championship match against France ten days ago.

At the age of 21, Vickery wins his first cap ahead of Darren Garforth and will be joined in the front row by Richard Cockerill. The combative Leicester hooker, who appeared in all four pre-Christmas internationals before sustaining a knee injury, is preferred to Mark Regan, while Matt Perry is restored at full back ahead of Mike Catt, his Bath colleague, whose qualities were so lauded by Clive Woodward, the England coach, before the game in Paris.

However, Woodward gives his speedy back row another opportunity together, banking on a more resolute display by his tight five forwards. Lawrence Dallaglio, the captain, reduced the amount of contact yesterday he would normally do in training, but is confident that his rib-cartilage injury will have settled down in time for him to play. "It was always at the back of my mind to give Phil a game this season and this is the right game to do it in," Woodward said. Vickery follows Will Green and Garforth in the No 3 jersey and is determined that Green's fate - an injury removed him from contention after his debut against Australia in November - will not be his.

"My goal is for a team win but my personal goal is to take my game up that extra level for international rugby," Vickery said. ENGLAND: M & P Perry (Both), D L Rose (Both), W J H Greenwood (Leicester), J C Guinness (Both), A S Healey (Leicester), P J Grayson (Northampton), K P F Beavan (Saracens), J Leonard (Harlequins), R Cockerill (Leicester), F J Vickery (Gloucester), M O Johnson (Leicester), G S Archer (Newcastle), L B N Dallaglio (Wales), N A Back (Leicester), R A Hill (Saracens). Replacements: M J Catt (Bath), P R de Grouville (Both), M J S Dewsey (Northampton), A J Diprose (Saracens), D J Greenwood (Saracens), D J Garforth (Leicester), D E West (Leicester).

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Rugby Partnership XV and for England A, and his name was announced as a replacement in Paris before it was realised that Dorian West was taking the field. His hopes were centred around retaining his place among the replacements, but a good 40 minutes against Gary Pagel, Northampton's South Africa prop, in the Premiership on Saturday confirmed his promotion. He has worked hard under Phil Keith-Roach, the England scrum coach, and will be a key part of what John Mitchell hopes will be a far more assertive forward display. "We let ourselves down in Paris," Mitchell, the assistant coach, said. "We forgot what we achieved in the autumn. We can talk about lack of attacking scrums, losing lineout possession, the passiveness of the players, but we were too soft, we weren't aggressive enough, we forgot our job was to create dominance up front."

The form teams in the first division - Newcastle, Saracens and Bath - started their games last weekend with 24 England-qualified players from 45, of whom individuals such as Rob Andrew, Dean Ryan, Nigel Redman and Jonathan Callard are unlikely to play again for England. Together they contribute nine players to the squad against Wales while Leicester, whose inconsistency has been compounded by the departure of Bob Dwyer, their coaching director, provide seven.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE
By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent
The deceptive possibilities arising from letting go a nine or a ten at the strategic moment seem virtually limitless. The version below is what is known as an "obligatory false-card".

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KEENE on CHESS
By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent
Kasparov vulnerable
Although Garry Kasparov has, by and large, dominated tournaments in which he has competed over the past year, his match defeat against Deep Blue, the IBM computer, and his reluctance to risk his world title in a challenge match make the outcome of the upcoming Linares competition doubly important for him. Nevertheless, while maintaining a clear overall plus score, he has suffered losses against almost virtually every member of the Linares field. Only Alexei Shirov has so far failed to beat him. Kasparov's defeats usually come while playing over-sharply with the black pieces, as in today's example, his only loss from last year's event.

White: Vassily Ivanchuk
Black: Garry Kasparov
Linares 1997

1 d4	N6
2 c4	g5
3 Nc3	g6
4 e4	0-0
5 Bg5	b5
7 Qc2	g5
8 d5	g5
9 cxb5	Nd7
10 a4	Qa5
11 Ng2	Nb6
12 Nc1	g6
13 Bx5	Bd6
14 N1a2	Bxb5
15 a5b6	Nh5
16 Rb1	Bd4
17 Bh6	Rf8
18 b3	e6
19 cxb6	Fxe6
20 Bc3	Bxc3

WORD-WATCHING
By Philip Howard

FRINGE
a. Distinguish people in search of work
b. South American hand mime
c. High altitude mountain path

BIOCHORE
a. Wholegrain foodstuffs
b. Recycling
c. Climatic boundary of a region

ENGLISHITE
a. A hydrated phosphate
b. Apathetic patriot
c. Colloquial derivative of language

CLONUS
a. Generic term for cloned material
b. A muscle spasm
c. Collective planets in constellation

Answers on page 46

WORTHY MOVE
By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Fabregó - Alvarez, Spain 1997. Discovered check is a device where one piece moves to uncover a check from another piece. It can be a powerful weapon as the piece that moves can cause mayhem elsewhere. How did White make the most of this weapon here?

Riddle of Twickenham's crossbar solved by farmer

FOR 40 years, Fred Mathias, an elderly south Pembrokeshire farmer, has hidden a guilty secret which only now, as England and Wales prepare to meet, is he prepared to reveal. It was he who cut down the crossbar at Twickenham in 1958 after the old adversaries had drawn 3-3. The men in red were denied victory when, to widespread dismay, Terry Davies's last-minute penalty rebounded off the crossbar - which, in those days, were rectangular in shape, rather than rounded. Having drowned his sorrows in central London for several hours, Mathias decided to get even. With three mates in tow, he returned to the deserted ground - imagine trying to break in now - sawed off the offending piece of wood, and chopped it into ten-inch pieces. On their way home, they stopped at a café and who should be sitting there but Terry Davies himself, who happily autographed a piece of the crossbar. And the repercussions of Fred's skulduggery? Absolutely none. "We didn't get in to any trouble," he said this week. "One of the Welsh players was a timber merchant and he replaced the crossbar and everyone was happy." Apparently, Fred's piece of the bar has wide of place in the Cresselly Arms, at Cresswell Quay.

grouse proudly strutted his snuff - an omen perhaps for Saturday? Famous Grouse is now hoping to restore the event, but with dummies rather than the real thing. So, if anyone has two stuffed birds...

BADMINTON

Goode has impact on return

FROM RICHARD EATON IN SANDEFJORD, NORWAY

JOANNE GOODE made her first appearance for England for 16 months here yesterday and helped her country to an opening 4-1 win over Wales in the European zone of the Uber Cup world team championships.

Once one of the best all-round doubles players in the world, she had taken time out of the sport for the birth of her son, Jack, but nobody could doubt the impact of her return. No matter that Kelly Morgan and Gabi Osbourne were hardly notable scalps for a former Malaysian Open champion in women's doubles and All England champion in mixed, victory by 15-2, 15-1 with Donna Kellogg, her promising 20-year-old partner, was a significant step in her comeback.

"It feels nice," Goode said. "I am back to the weight I was and think I will soon be back to the same standard."

England need her more now than ever. Another of their former stalwarts, Julie Bradbury, is pregnant and three of the teams that played Wales, including Rebecca Pantaney and Tracy Hallam, the two singles players, have not played in the Uber Cup before.

Pantaney was making her England debut. Lottery money has transformed her training and now, a stone lighter, she almost skipped to a 11-6, 11-4 win over Osbourne. "Two years ago, I was thinking I might never make it," she said. "Now it seems to get better every day."

Wales must beat Scotland today to keep alive their slim hopes of further progress.

Helping hand

Jason Robinson, who had a brief spell at Bath before returning to rugby league with Wigan, has Valaiga Tuigamala, now of Newcastle, to thank for helping him to find Christianity and probably saving his career. Robinson was in danger of going off the rails through drink when Tuigamala arrived at Central Park. Now a born-again Christian, Robinson can be found on Sunday nights traipsing the mean streets of Manchester distributing food and clothing to the needy and homeless. Hours after scoring three tries for Wigan against Keighley last weekend, Robinson was back helping those less fortunate than himself. "When you see people sleeping rough with rubbish all around them, it spurs you on to do as much as you can for them," Robinson said. Donations of food and clothing for the Outreach Programme are urgently needed and he can be contacted through Wigan.

Loose Talk

A Bristol wag rang The Times yesterday to suggest that, if Kevin Yates has time on his hands this summer, he might like to work at a food festival being staged in Bath... entitled Bite '98.

Absent friends

If John Kingston has anything to do with it, Richmond players will be spending far more time in the bar from now on. "We've picked up the reputation of a 'going-home' team," Kingston, the Richmond director of rugby, said. He was not best pleased with the lacklustre display against Sale on Sunday and takes the view that spectators who have paid good money to attend should at least be able to air their grievances directly after the match. It is said that, after the Tetley's Bitter Cup-tie with Doncaster, the Yorkshire players, who had been beaten 58-8, were in full voice and called upon the Richmond players to give them a song. "Sorry lads," Mike Hutton, the centre, said. "I'll sing with you by all means, but I'm the only one of us here." How the game has changed.

Feathers fly

There have been ruffled feathers in Scotland this week ahead of the international at Murrayfield. Famous Grouse, the Scotland team sponsor, tried to set up a photo-shoot involving a grouse and a cockerel on a farm near Edinburgh. All seemed to be going well until the grouse suddenly took exception to the cockerel and launched an unprovoked attack. The bird was saved in the nick of time as the...

MARK SOUSTER



RACING: NEWLY ELECTED BOLA CHAIRMAN OFFERS OLIVE BRANCH TO INDUSTRY

Bell's speech signals new dawn

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE most influential figure in British bookmaking yesterday attempted to break down traditional barriers by calling for a new accord between the betting industry and racing.

Chris Bell, managing director of Ladbrokes Racing and the recently elected chairman of the Betting Office Licenses Association (BOLA) said: "1998 should see a new dawn in relationships between racing and the betting industry."

In a speech at BOLA's annual meeting in London, Richard Evans said: "The most influential figure in British bookmaking yesterday attempted to break down traditional barriers by calling for a new accord between the betting industry and racing."

Bell highlighted how betting and racing had together worked successfully in developing off-course gambling opportunities "which just went to show that when a mutual opportunity is recognised, both industries can move decisively and quickly."

He added: "This should be the start of a new period of thorough and pragmatic analysis and action - we now know it can be done. BOLA would very much welcome more action and increased joint development."

His words reflect a noticeable and refreshing change in tone from the organisation which represents more than 60 per cent of Britain's 8,500 off-course betting shops - and reflects the character of the



Maguire leads on Macgeorge over the water jump, the first of two winners on his return to action at Leicester yesterday

new chairman. In stark contrast to the combative attitude of some of his predecessors, Bell is personable and not openly hostile to racing's interests.

The response to Bell's olive branch will hinge largely on who is elected to succeed Lord Wakeham as chairman of the British Horseracing Board (BHB). If the successor is from the Peter Savill wing of racing then the chances of any progress are slim.

However, if the new chairman is pragmatic and not tied down by the hopeless dreams contained in much of the BHB's recently published financial plan, there is a genuine chance of Bell's vision of a "new dawn" becoming reality - provided he can carry his own counsel.

Although less publicised, BOLA also contains its own hardliners, the most notable being John Brown of William Hill, who is the bookmaking equivalent of Savill within racing.

While Bell did not go into detail, it is possible to envisage a subtle but significant change in BOLA's stance as to who should benefit from any reduction in betting duty.

If racing and the betting industry could agree that the benefit of such a reduction should be shared between betting shop punters and racing, it would represent dramatic progress, potentially worth tens of millions to the sport.

The importance of racing and betting speaking with one voice was stressed at the BOLA meeting by George Howarth, the Home Office minister responsible for gambling policy. "Whenever racing and the gambling industry speaks with a strong and united voice, it is a very powerful and persuasive one," he said.

Although the BHB's financial plan is being greeted with less than total enthusiasm within the Home Office and Treasury, Howarth has agreed to investigate the recommendation involving deregulation of racecourses. He asked to look carefully at the proposal for wider gambling facilities at racecourses and have therefore asked officials to explore this further.

However, he ruled out any review of gambling legislation in the short term - including allowing betting terminals in pubs. He also came out in favour of the status quo involving the levy, which produces more than £50 million a year for racing's coffers.

By Richard Evans. Bell's olive branch will hinge largely on who is elected to succeed Lord Wakeham as chairman of the British Horseracing Board (BHB).

MUSSELBURGH

THUNDERER
2.20 Merand, 2.50 Chira King, 3.20 Rossel, 3.50 Dawn Lad, 4.20 Secret Bay, 4.50 Over The Beck.
Timekeeper's top rating: 3.20 ROSSEL.
Carl Evans: 4.20 Secret Bay.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES)
FOTE JACKPOT MEETING

2.20 TOM MCCONNELL MEMORIAL JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O) £2,765 (10) (10 runners)

1114	SEMI VALLER 4 (W.C.S.)	4-10	113
1115	LADY LAYERS 11-5	M H Thompson	107
1116	COLNEY 10-12	R McCrath	107
1117	PLUCKY 10-12	M H Thompson	107
1118	FREE DANCE 10-12	R McCrath	107
1119	GRAND HOTEL 38-1	M H Thompson	107
1120	MR BOUTILLIER 32-2	M H Thompson	107
1121	FREE DANCE 10-12	R McCrath	107
1122	FREE DANCE 10-12	R McCrath	107

2.50 MCEWANS LAGER NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (2,426, 2m) (6)

203215	JACK YEATS 119 (B.F.)	4-10	J F Tiley	109
203216	CHINA 105 (C.S.)	4-10	P Canby	109
203217	CHINCH 105 (C.S.)	4-10	P Canby	109
203218	CHINCH 105 (C.S.)	4-10	P Canby	109
203219	CHINCH 105 (C.S.)	4-10	P Canby	109

3.20 MCEWANS 70' HANDICAP HURDLE (5,774, 2m) (6)

321206	SARATHAM 45 (G.D.F.)	4-10	C Macdonald	109
321207	ROSSIE 18 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
321208	BEST OF ALL 48 (B.F.)	4-10	D Butler	107
321209	INDIAN PRINCESS 19 (O.F.)	4-10	P Rosen	111
321210	ROSSIE 18 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107

3.50 MILLER PILSNER J R MCHAIR HANDICAP CHASE (3,704, 2m) (13)

02325	DARWIN SCHOOL 56 (B.C.E.S.)	4-10	D Butler	109
02326	ROSSIE 18 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
02327	ROSSIE 18 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
02328	ROSSIE 18 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
02329	ROSSIE 18 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107

4.20 JOHN SMITHS EXTRA SMOOTH HUNTERS CHASE (Amateur) £2,920, 3m) (11)

52124	HOWARD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
52125	SECRET BAY 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
52126	SECRET BAY 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
52127	SECRET BAY 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
52128	SECRET BAY 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107

4.50 BEAMISH IRISH RED NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (2,556, 3m) (10)

60113	AGALVA 10 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
60114	AGALVA 10 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
60115	AGALVA 10 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
60116	AGALVA 10 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
60117	AGALVA 10 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: B. James, 4 winners from 28 runners, 35.7% of total; 2nd 28, 32.1% of total; 3rd 28, 32.1% of total; 4th 28, 32.1% of total; 5th 28, 32.1% of total; 6th 28, 32.1% of total; 7th 28, 32.1% of total; 8th 28, 32.1% of total; 9th 28, 32.1% of total; 10th 28, 32.1% of total.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: B. James, 4 winners from 28 runners, 35.7% of total; 2nd 28, 32.1% of total; 3rd 28, 32.1% of total; 4th 28, 32.1% of total; 5th 28, 32.1% of total; 6th 28, 32.1% of total; 7th 28, 32.1% of total; 8th 28, 32.1% of total; 9th 28, 32.1% of total; 10th 28, 32.1% of total.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER
2.10 Miracle Island, 2.40 Mister Asquith, 3.10 Theatre Magic, 3.40 Mary Jane, 4.10 Malozza, 4.40 Ambidextrous.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.10 DAFFODIL MAIDEN STAKES (2,469, 1m 11/20) (10 runners)

444	MIDWINTER 125 (W.C.S.)	4-10	Dave O'Hara	5
445	MIDWINTER 125 (W.C.S.)	4-10	Dave O'Hara	5
446	MIDWINTER 125 (W.C.S.)	4-10	Dave O'Hara	5
447	MIDWINTER 125 (W.C.S.)	4-10	Dave O'Hara	5
448	MIDWINTER 125 (W.C.S.)	4-10	Dave O'Hara	5

2.40 TULIP CLAIMING STAKES (2,035, 1m 61/60) (10)

011	MISTER ASPQUITH 25 (W.C.S.)	4-10	D Butler	6
012	MISTER ASPQUITH 25 (W.C.S.)	4-10	D Butler	6
013	MISTER ASPQUITH 25 (W.C.S.)	4-10	D Butler	6
014	MISTER ASPQUITH 25 (W.C.S.)	4-10	D Butler	6
015	MISTER ASPQUITH 25 (W.C.S.)	4-10	D Butler	6

3.10 IRIS HANDICAP (2,498, 7f) (10)

526	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	D Butler	6
527	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	D Butler	6
528	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	D Butler	6
529	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	D Butler	6
530	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	D Butler	6

3.40 FREESIA HANDICAP (3-Y-O) £3,386, 5f) (7)

1231	POLAR 10 (O.F.)	4-10	G Duffell	2
1232	POLAR 10 (O.F.)	4-10	G Duffell	2
1233	POLAR 10 (O.F.)	4-10	G Duffell	2
1234	POLAR 10 (O.F.)	4-10	G Duffell	2
1235	POLAR 10 (O.F.)	4-10	G Duffell	2

4.10 LILY SELLING STAKES (3-Y-O) £1,738, 6f) (9)

1333	SHERRY 7 (O.F.)	4-10	G Duffell	2
1334	SHERRY 7 (O.F.)	4-10	G Duffell	2
1335	SHERRY 7 (O.F.)	4-10	G Duffell	2
1336	SHERRY 7 (O.F.)	4-10	G Duffell	2
1337	SHERRY 7 (O.F.)	4-10	G Duffell	2

4.40 ROSE APPRENTICES HANDICAP (2,697, 1m 4f) (8)

054	SMART BOY 20 (O.F.)	4-10	Dave O'Hara	5
055	SMART BOY 20 (O.F.)	4-10	Dave O'Hara	5
056	SMART BOY 20 (O.F.)	4-10	Dave O'Hara	5
057	SMART BOY 20 (O.F.)	4-10	Dave O'Hara	5
058	SMART BOY 20 (O.F.)	4-10	Dave O'Hara	5

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: W. James, 10 winners from 28 runners, 35.7% of total; 2nd 28, 32.1% of total; 3rd 28, 32.1% of total; 4th 28, 32.1% of total; 5th 28, 32.1% of total; 6th 28, 32.1% of total; 7th 28, 32.1% of total; 8th 28, 32.1% of total; 9th 28, 32.1% of total; 10th 28, 32.1% of total.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: W. James, 10 winners from 28 runners, 35.7% of total; 2nd 28, 32.1% of total; 3rd 28, 32.1% of total; 4th 28, 32.1% of total; 5th 28, 32.1% of total; 6th 28, 32.1% of total; 7th 28, 32.1% of total; 8th 28, 32.1% of total; 9th 28, 32.1% of total; 10th 28, 32.1% of total.

THUNDERER

2.00 Supply And Demand, 3.30 WESTERN CHIEF (map), 4.50 Biddling, 4.50 Hollands House, 5.00 Facts Not Fiction.

Carl Evans: 4.30 Double Silk.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

2.00 GOING NOVICES HURDLE (£2,445, 2m 11/20) (11 runners)

1	4-4814	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
2	4-4815	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
3	4-4816	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
4	4-4817	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
5	4-4818	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107

2.30 OXLEY NOVICES CHASE (£4,143, 2m 4f 11/20) (11 runners)

1	2219	WINDY 10 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
2	2220	WINDY 10 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
3	2221	WINDY 10 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
4	2222	WINDY 10 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
5	2223	WINDY 10 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107

3.00 SANDERSTEAD MAIDEN HURDLE (2,835, 2m 7f) (16 runners)

1	4-4819	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
2	4-4820	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
3	4-4821	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
4	4-4822	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
5	4-4823	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107

3.30 SANDERSTEAD MAIDEN HURDLE (2,835, 2m 7f) (16 runners)

1	4-4824	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
2	4-4825	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
3	4-4826	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
4	4-4827	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
5	4-4828	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107

3.00 SANDERSTEAD MAIDEN HURDLE (2,835, 2m 7f) (16 runners)

1	4-4829	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
2	4-4830	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
3	4-4831	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
4	4-4832	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
5	4-4833	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107

3.00 SANDERSTEAD MAIDEN HURDLE (2,835, 2m 7f) (16 runners)

1	4-4834	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
2	4-4835	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
3	4-4836	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
4	4-4837	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
5	4-4838	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107

3.00 SANDERSTEAD MAIDEN HURDLE (2,835, 2m 7f) (16 runners)

1	4-4839	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
2	4-4840	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
3	4-4841	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
4	4-4842	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107
5	4-4843	FREE BIRD 20 (O.F.)	4-10	M H Thompson	107

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

191: 1121/45 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 192: 1121/46 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 193: 1121/47 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 194: 1121/48 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 195: 1121/49 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 196: 1121/50 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 197: 1121/51 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 198: 1121/52 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 199: 1121/53 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 200: 1121/54 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 201: 1121/55 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 202: 1121/56 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 203: 1121/57 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 204: 1121/58 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 205: 1121/59 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 206: 1121/60 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 207: 1121/61 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 208: 1121/62 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 209: 1121/63 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 210: 1121/64 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 211: 1121/65 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 212: 1121/66 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 213: 1121/67 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 214: 1121/68 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 215: 1121/69 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 216: 1121/70 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 217: 1121/71 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 218: 1121/72 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 219: 1121/73 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 220: 1121/74 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 221: 1121/75 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 222: 1121/76 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 223: 1121/77 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 224: 1121/78 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 225: 1121/79 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 226: 1121/80 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 227: 1121/81 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 228: 1121/82 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 229: 1121/83 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 230: 1121/84 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 231: 1121/85 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
 232: 1121/86 GOOD TIMES 13 (B.F.S.) (M.D. Robinson) 9.14 12-4. W West (7) M
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Giant leap of faith turns Norway scapegoat into Nagano hero Harada answers country's prayers

FROM ROB HUGHES IN NAGANO

ON CONSECUTIVE days, the Nagano Winter Olympics have delivered triumphs of the human spirit that transcend the carping of those who sneer from afar that the Winter Games are not worth a candle in the wind.

The Austrian skier Hermann Maier's return to master the mountain where, 72 hours earlier, his life had been endangered, was "made-for-television" drama. He falls, he flies out of control, he returns bruised but unbowed to win the next race. It happens in minutes, the video captures all.

Masahiko Harada's courage, however, took four years to mature. It is that of a man humbled before his own people, slowly, slowly working his way back to the summit to achieve gold not only for himself but for the team of four Japanese ski jumpers.

You have to appreciate the culture here that recognises team gold as superior to individual; and you had to be out in the morning cold with him, then at last night's mass celebration in Central Square, to experience how close Harada came to repeating his failure at Lillehammer, how he summoned belief and leadership from deep inside himself, and how much that meant to so many people.

These have developed into the weeping Olympics. Some do it with little cause, but when Harada knew his mission was over, when he stood quivering, wreathed in smiles yet also sobbing, it was the outpouring of one who had forced himself to the utmost limits.

All this in the name of sport, in a part of the world where an air disaster has caused real human suffering. One acknowledges that it is purely transient, a delusion, for people to suggest that a mere moment of triumph in sport lifts the moral of a population still in shock after the tremors of financial uncertainty. But, if it is delusion, it is a magnificent thing to share.

Let us go back to Harada's first jump yesterday morning. It was, for him, a pathetic 79.5 metres — in the Eddie the Eagle class. It was snowing heavily, his speed off the runway was hampered, but how could you explain or excuse the world's record distance ski jumper when less experienced team-mates were jumping in the high 120s?

Harada had lapsed like this before, had, in Norway, cost Japan the team gold that the nation had craved since success at Sapporo three years ago, when Harada was three years old.

He lives in Sapporo, indeed, until the opening ceremony here, had hid his wife and two small children in relative tranquillity there. But, on that day, feeling the spirit of the Games, he called his wife and told her to bring the family to Nagano.

It added a very small extra degree of burden to the man carrying the hopes of a nation of 125 million people. No matter, he sensed that this was a once in a lifetime experience and, being Japanese to the core, he wanted to share it.

Less than an hour after yesterday's first jump, the same man, under even more pressure because Germans and Austrians and Finns were getting their collective act together, was called upon again. Harada reached more than 90 kilometres per hour on the



Harada, left, rushes to embrace Funaki, whose bold final jump had just ensured a gold medal for Japan in the team ski-jumping competition

runway, he soared into the still inclement air and refused to let his skis touch the snow below until he had reached 137 metres. Only one man in history had done that before at Hakuba and that, just a matter of minutes previously, was the less experienced Takano Okabe.

Even then Harada, his dreams of redemption so close to coming true, had to endure an agonising wait. He is what is known as a power jumper; his style is such that the big one does not come to order. In short, he is at once the best man in the world at his sport. And one of the more erratic.

But now he stood with the rest of the team, gazing up at the foot of the hill, gazing up at the foot of the hill, gazing up at the foot of the hill.

He waited for Kazuyoshi Funaki, at 22 almost eight years his junior, but in this competition a young man able to achieve the consistency that Harada lacked. Funaki swept

down the runway lifted off... and reached 125 metres. For an instant there was silence and then Harada, Okabe, Funaki and Hiroya Saito, the team of four, were collapsed in a heap, a rugby scrum of four Japanese in their silver and sky blue ski suits.

Later — it seemed much later — when the four men could talk, Harada still seemed fragile. He would present to the world his now famous smile, the smile that had been a mask to hide his four years of shame at letting the country down at the last Olympics, but even late yesterday, he was unable to prevent emotion welling up. Yet he

was still very much the team leader. The other three joked with him, even teased "Mr Harada" about his first jump, before Funaki put it into perspective.

"When I stood at the top of the hill before that final jump, I truly sympathised with Harada," he said. "He was overwhelmed with the burden of pressure on him. It was not tangible, yet we all knew it."

Harada, like any competitor in any part of the world, had read the newspaper articles subjecting him to instant analysis. They said, in a multitude of languages, that he was a choker; he knew it, he knew there was a single way to silence that criticism, and ultimately he took it.

It would be a cynical world, as hollow as the Olympic rings, in which there were no sportsmen as bold and as vulnerable as Masahiko Harada. I hope to see triumph like his again, although I hope never to see sport carried to such extremes that a dignified warrior is left quivering in his redemption.

And yet, if the message is that sport has become too obsessive, too important, then better than the more hostile alternatives.



of us — some 40,000 — at the foot of the hill, gazing up at the foot of the hill, gazing up at the foot of the hill.

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And what does the world think of us, with such recent ones as Ken Bates, Angus Fraser, Steven Cousins, Kirsty Hay? Or other Winter Games people of the past: Nash and Dixon, Torvill and Dean, Robin Cousins, Eddie the Eagle? Perhaps they believe that British athletes live forever between hope and fear. Just like their own, Mike Atherton, Masahiko Harada: in a certain, harsh and sporting light, you cannot tell them apart.

Nation salutes man with the Midas touch

IT was one of those perfect Olympian events. The team ski-jumping competition was one of sport's eternal stories, the man who sinks to the great occasion. Four years ago, Masahiko Harada's ghastly jump cost Japan the gold in the same competition. And, after four years of agony and remorse, exactly the same thing happened, a ghastly jump of 79 metres.

Japan had been the hottest of hot favourites to win this event on home soil, and 45,000 people turned out to cheer the lads home, despite blizzard conditions that made my television screen look like a late Turner. But Harada spoiled everything.

And then redemption. Harada launched himself down the demerol ramp for the last time, leapt headlong — for once the word is apt — into unforgiving air. And flew. He flew a majestic 137 metres, and Japan were home and biased. The screen now filled with Japanese faces, each one alight with fierce joy.

And it said everything about the Japanese character, did it not? A taste for action of the death-defying kind, a love of solidarity in the warmth of a team, a terrible fear of individual exposure, individual failure, and above all, an ability to rise above fear to find individual and shared triumph.

All this is profoundly true of Japan. It is also profoundly true of every other nation at the Winter Games, but never mind. In this moment of Japanese triumph, who can fail to cherish a profound insight into the Japanese soul?

Which, in a way, it is. The ski-jumping competition tells us about triumph and disaster, and various ways of dealing with the old imposters. It was vivid television, emotional and revealing. Sport's moments of personal revelation are what television does best, any five minutes of any John McEnroe tennis match tells us that.

And, in the disaster that Harada Midas'd turned into gold, it would have been inhuman not to share a little of his incredulous delight, his bowel-wrenching relief. We were, for an instant, all one with the Japanese, all — something that I have never experienced when reading Basho, or D.T. Suzuki, or even the seminal You Only Live Twice.

I lived for four years in a Chinese fishing village and thought I understood nothing

of the Chinese soul. A week in Japan taught me that there were still more elusive cultures. In the same way, I thought I had understood nothing of Relativity, until I reached the chapter about Quantum Moral: there is a difference between almost nothing and nothing.

I reached profound new levels of incomprehension as I walked the Philosopher's Way in Kyoto, only to plunge still deeper as I prowled the bars of Kabuki-cho in Tokyo. But there, in that moment of ski-jumping magic, I had a brief spell of powerful cross-cultural understanding.

There is only one thing wrong with this observation, and that is this — it is almost perfect nonsense. What I had seen and understood is not Japan, but sport. Sport is a universal language, the Esperanto that everybody actually speaks. Sport is not new ground, it is common ground.

All the same, it is intriguing, and a little alarming, to think how much we know — or think we know — about alien cultures through sport and how little we know from accurate knowledge of history and art. The Australia cricket team contributes more to our idea of Australia than Voss or the great depression; the India cricket

team more than Bhagavad Gita and partition. Perhaps the Soviets were right to place such a huge emphasis on sport. Did they want us to think of them as stupidly efficient, remorseless, driving goal-orientated, grim, unbeatable, unstoppable — and, in the final analysis, creepily sinister? No doubt they did. How much Cold War fear came not from Soviet military might but from uncompromising Soviet pursuit of sporting gold?

The latest events in swimming, the Chinese caught with human growth hormone, tell us that the Chinese are sinister, but floppy, is that fair? Never mind. Accurate or not, the messages of sport are not easily forgotten.

And what does the world think of us, with such recent ones as Ken Bates, Angus Fraser, Steven Cousins, Kirsty Hay? Or other Winter Games people of the past: Nash and Dixon, Torvill and Dean, Robin Cousins, Eddie the Eagle? Perhaps they believe that British athletes live forever between hope and fear. Just like their own, Mike Atherton, Masahiko Harada: in a certain, harsh and sporting light, you cannot tell them apart.

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Britain's medal hopes melt away

THE quest for a Great Britain medal grows more forlorn by the day (Rob Hughes writes). Yesterday, in the 1,000 metres short track speed skating, a British forte it was believed, the main contender, Nicky Gooch, finished third of three skaters in his heat and Matt Jasper, thought fortunate with him, was eliminated in the semi-finals.

It is surely the most capricious of pastimes, dice on ice. It pits men and women to lap a 111-metre track with such tight left-hand bends that, perhaps,

someone with one leg shorter than the other should emerge triumphant. Gooch arrived in hope that dissipated last week, when he was unable to train because of flu. Compounding that, he drew in his heat Kim Dong-Sung, of South Korea, the new world master at the tender age of 17. Gooch was swiftly blown away, a spent force long before the ten laps were complete.

Jasper was at least to last a couple of rounds. In his heat, breaking into the lead just after half-distance, he sustained

his strategy to win. In the next round he could scarcely believe his luck when Marc Gagnon, a Canadian, brought down Lee Jun-Hwan, another South Korean, and Jasper, 25 yards off the pace, had only to stay on his feet to qualify for the semi-finals. This time, though, no one obliged by falling over and Kim duly took the gold medal.

In the women's ice hockey final, it was the United States who struck gold, Gretchen Union emerging as the dominant player in a 3-1 win over Canada.

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Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off. Includes the name 'Valli se' at the top and 'Liverpool an...' further down.

New Chelsea manager begins reign with Coca-Cola Cup semi-final

Vialli seizes role as romantic lead

Oliver Holt on a new wave of optimism at Stamford Bridge

If the reign of Ruud Gullit seemed like an age of enlightenment to those who felt the fresh air he breathed through English football...

At a packed press conference at the training ground of the club near Heathrow Airport, Vialli gave a mesmerizing performance...

He was more charming than Gullit had ever been, more open, more eloquent, more modest, more idiomatic and more willing to meet difficult questions head-on...

"I do not care if people call me a backstabber," Vialli said, "because I just have to respond to my own conscience. You have to look at yourself in the mirror and only you know if you did something wrong."

Even though we were not the best of friends and we had our problems professionally, I wish him all the best. I have got nothing against him. Anyway, it is the way you behave day after day that shows whether you are a backstabber or not...



Vialli takes centre stage in Chelsea's training session yesterday. Tonight, he attempts to lead his new charges to Wembley in his first game at the helm

decisions he made. He also stressed that he would rule by consensus and consult his coach, Graham Rix, at every opportunity. Someone pointed out that perhaps he was being idealistic and that the harsh realities of management would soon compromise his 'lofty intentions'...

And so the thoughts of intrigue and conspiracy that had contaminated the training ground since Gullit's departure floated gently away on the wind and turned instead to a future that is already starting to seem brighter again. Nobody ruffled the new player-manager, everyone laughed at his jokes and nodded when he hinted he would end Gullit's policy of rotating his strikers...

second leg of their Coca-Cola Cup semi-final against Arsenal at Stamford Bridge tonight to overcome the 2-1 deficit from the first leg. "It is a very exciting position for me to be in," Vialli said. "It is something absolutely new for me and I have to be like a sponge and absorb as many things as possible. I will have to go through mistakes but I have got a lot of enthusiasm and I will do everything as best as I possibly can."

think this is the way to have a good rapport with the players. "I think they will understand that whatever I do will be for the good of the team. The players have to care about their manager if they are to perform and I think they will care if I treat them in the right way. "In my career, I have been considered a superstar - even if I did not consider myself one - so I know the way great players are treated. But I have also spent a lot of time sitting on the bench. I have been injured. I have been in bad shape. I have been in different situations. I can identify with a

lot of different players. Even in the few days I have been in charge, it has not been easy. But I am not going to get cold feet. I am going to chicken out. I am going to do my best and that is all I can do. Vialli has made a wonderful start. All that remains now is the small matter of discovering whether his team performs for him on the pitch. If they do not, his wise words and all his fine ideals will matter not a jot. Clive Beenhakker, the Feyenoord coach, has extended his contract with the club for another year, ending speculation that Gullit will return to the club.

Villa pave way for return of Milosevic

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

IN MANY ways, it promises to be the most unlikely comeback of the season. Savo Milosevic, who first appeared to spit at his own supporters and then went on strike, refusing to play until he was granted a transfer, could play for Aston Villa tonight in the FA Carling Premiership fixture with Manchester United. Milosevic was dropped by Villa after the spitting incident at Blackburn Rovers on January 17 and rebuffed the club when recalled, to sit on the substitutes' bench, for the visit to Derby County ten days ago. He maintained the same stance for the FA Cup tie with Coventry City last Saturday, but, according to Brian Little, the Villa manager, he may be in the squad to meet United at Villa Park tonight.

The situation regarding Milosevic has changed," Little said. "He has come around to the fact that he has not been doing himself any good and wants to be involved again. Myself, the chairman and the player had a good meeting and Savo has relented on his stance and withdrawn his threat about not wanting to play for Aston Villa again. "I think, he thought, after saying what he did, that someone would come in the next day and buy him. In the long term, his future is away from the club and his leaving would not be a question now if we receive what we consider is the right offer, but at present the transfer windows in places like Spain and Italy are closed until the end of the season. I told him that he was the only person going to suffer from his decision not to play and we've kept on saying that to him. "He has not stopped working hard on the training ground, but now he has to show a willingness to me and the rest of the team that he wants to be part of things. There is a chance he will be part of things tomorrow. "That chance depends largely on the fitness of Yorke, who has a thigh injury, with Danny Blyford standing by to replace him in the forward line, leaving Milosevic a place on the bench. Ian Taylor should return from suspension in place of Mark Draper, who has an ankle problem. Jim Smith, the Derby County manager, is protesting to Fifa, the world governing body, over plans by Jamaica to retain Dean Burton for an international against Nigeria on Saturday. Derby released Burton for the ConcaCat Gold Cup in the United States, a tournament sanctioned by Fifa that finished last weekend, but expected the striker to return today. Smith wants Burton to be available for the FA Carling Premiership game against Manchester United at Old Trafford at the weekend. "It is ridiculous and I am not sure what Fifa could do to us if we told him to return," Smith said. "We released Dean to play in America and they had five games in less than a fortnight. No friendly with Nigeria was mentioned on the itinerary. Three weeks away is unacceptable."

SPORT IN BRIEF

Majid insists tour will go on

CRICKET: Rumours that the Pakistan touring party want to return home from their troubled tour of South Africa were countered yesterday by Majid Khan, the chief executive of their cricket board, who had three discussions with his counterpart, Dr Ali Bacher, and insisted it would continue (two Test matches). He also asked Rashid Latif, the captain, to try to lift the spirits of the players. Because of heavy rain, there was no play on the fourth day of the first Test match in Johannesburg, which now looks certain to be drawn. Asad Aziz, the Pakistan team manager, continued to refute allegations that two of his players were not mugged outside their hotel last week, but were instead in a late-night hostess bar some distance away. The subsequent postponement of the Test match by one day is thought to have cost the United Cricket Board of South Africa around 1.5 million rand (£190,000). Aziz, who has consulted a lawyer, issued a statement last night insisting he was satisfied that the version of events given to him by the two players, Mohammad Akram and Saqlain Mushtaq, was accurate. "The assaults were reported to the police immediately and I want them to concentrate on their cricket," he said.

MOLLY MOVES: Sheffield Eagles yesterday signed Steve Molloy, the 28-year-old Great Britain prop forward from Featherstone Rovers for an undisclosed fee. Molloy, who has been in dispute with the Featherstone club, has signed a two-year deal with the Eagles. STUDENTS' LUCK: Loughborough Students, of the first division, have avoided all six Premiership clubs after being drawn against the second division leaders, Aldridge, in the last eight of the EHA Cup. Two former European Cup Winners' Cup champions are also pitted against each other with the holders, Hightown, facing Sutton Coldfield. DEAN BURTON: The Derby striker has signed a two-year deal with the Eagles.

holders out: BOWLS: Cambridgeshire, who defeated Northamptonshire, the holders of the Atherley Trophy, in the quarter-finals, now face Nottinghamshire, who triumphed over Lincolnshire. Sussex defeated Somerset and now take on Gloucestershire.

Liverpool anxious to deny Middlesbrough a cup bonus

FOR all Middlesbrough's ambition, a return to the FA Carling Premiership is their one real objective this season. Success in their Coca-Cola Cup semi-final second leg against Liverpool tonight would be regarded merely as a bonus. Liverpool have loftier designs and a rather more demanding following. A trophy is the minimum requirement this season, and even then it must surely be supported with qualification for the European Cup Champions' League. Anything less may not be enough to save Roy Evans's job as manager. It is a stark prospect as Liverpool take a 2-1 lead to the Riverside Stadium tonight. Paul Ince, the Liverpool captain, recognises the importance of the competition. "We

know what we must do. We have the desire because we know that we must win. A club the size of Liverpool has to win trophies, and this is our best chance," he said. "If we win the Coca-Cola Cup then it will give our fans something to shout about. We are still very much in the reckoning in the league, and we know that we can say we have had a successful season only if we win a trophy and qualify for the European Cup. We will have to take that into the game at Middlesbrough." Liverpool will also take a buoyant Michael Owen into the game, fresh from his hat-trick against Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough on Saturday, but it is the condition of another visiting forward that will be equally significant.

By DAVID MADDOCK Robbie Fowler could be forgiven for thinking he is the invisible man, such is his anonymity in the shadow of Owen's brilliance. Anonymous, that is, but for an obvious dip in form and constant, malicious rumours linking him with drug-taking in an attempt to explain the fall from grace. Fowler admitted last week his frustration at these false accusations. But there was another significant development last week - a return, he said, to the sort of form that made him England's most feared striker. "I have been out of sorts, but I was really pleased with the way I played at Sheffield Wednesday," he said. "I thought I played really well, and that is encouraging. There have been

annoying things happening to me lately, but I think they are out in the open and behind me now." If Fowler, as he says, really has returned to some sort of form, then it is bad news for Middlesbrough, who trail because the little forward found some of his instinct in the first leg to snatch the winning goal with barely ten minutes remaining. Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, would dearly love the strike-power that Liverpool have at their disposal this evening, in form or not. Alun Armstrong, his £1.6 million signing from Stockport County, is cup-tied and Hamilton Ricard, signed from Deportivo Cali, of Colombia, for £2 million, has yet to score a work permit. It leaves Robson with the tempting

prospect of playing Marco Branca, a third forward signing, but he is likely to resist because the Italian only arrived in an £1.3 million deal from Internazionale yesterday evening. Instead, Mikkel Beck will continue, with the Dane accepting that Boro will benefit from increased competition up front. "A club this size needs three or four forwards, and we just had one - me," he said. Manchester City signed Peter Beardsley, the Bolton Wanderers forward, on a month's loan yesterday with a view to a permanent transfer. Beardsley only joined Bolton in a £500,000 deal at the start of the season, but he has fallen out of favour with Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, and has been placed on the transfer list.

SAILING

Innovation recovers lost ground

By EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT THE tight, four-boat battle for second place in the fifth leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race continued unabated yesterday, the order changing constantly as the crews fought for advantage up the Argentine coast, one west of the Falkland Islands (Edward Gorman writes). Swedish Match, skippered by Gunnar Krantz, managed to pull away slightly from the third-placed Toshiba, whose skipper is Paul Sandbridge. Great Britain, though the distance between the boats was only about five miles. A further three miles back, Grant Dalton, on Merit Cup, was ahead of Innovation Kvaerner by less than a mile. Knut Frostad, skipper of Innovation Kvaerner, is relieved to be back in the contest after a terrible start from Auckland. "Nothing is more rewarding, after starting 130 miles behind, to manage to come back on the fleet like we have done now," he said. Out in front, meanwhile, Paul Cayard's EF Language was maintaining the fastest average speed in the fleet and was some 335 miles ahead of Swedish Match.

TENNIS

Bjorkman bemoans opponent's empty win

By OUR SPORTS STAFF JONAS BJORKMAN became the second seed to fall in the opening round of the European Community Championship in Antwerp when he was thrashed by fellow-Swede Thomas Johansson yesterday. Bjorkman, seeded three and a US Open semi-finalist last year, lost 6-1, 6-2 to give Johansson, the world No 41, a second-round match against Martin Damm, of the Czech Republic. The defeat left Bjorkman, whose world ranking may now slip from fifth, complaining at the venue's lack of atmosphere. "That was the worst match of my career," he said. "It was frustrating to play in a totally empty hall. It was depressing to even think about going to play. "The atmosphere here has totally changed. Anyone would have beaten me today. I played here in the past and there was more tension around the tournament. Today there was nothing. "The tournament was once an elite-level event but lost its status on the ATP Tour after financial difficulties. "I hope I never have another one like this," Bjorkman said. "It's hard to play well when your

SNOKER

O'Sullivan remains disgruntled

By PHIL YATES THERE was a familiar lament after Ronnie O'Sullivan, clearly unhappy with life in general and snooker in particular, opened his challenge at the Royal Scottish Open with a 5-4 victory over Karl Payne in Aberdeen yesterday. "I'm just not enjoying it anymore. I'm always under the microscope and, at times, I don't feel I can cope with it anymore," O'Sullivan said. "I want to get through the rest of the season without getting into any trouble but I don't care if I win matches or lose them." O'Sullivan adopted an ambidextrous approach in building a 4-0 lead. He compiled breaks of 88 and 83, but also angered Payne, who described his actions as "unprofessional". Motivated by what he clearly regarded as a lack of respect, Payne levelled at 4-4 with breaks of 82, 47, 68 and 81. Having aggregated only 43 points during that spell, O'Sullivan was vulnerable to an upset, but he converted his first scoring opportunity in the deciding frame into a break of 62. He meets Brian Morgan today. Results, page 44

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Dark horses, grey or black, certainly funny

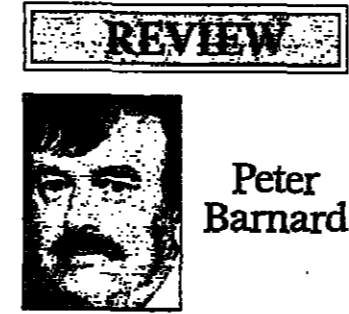
A night offering two documentaries about the sort of people whose lives are not normally a barrel of laughs could hardly be expected to produce the best double act since Morecambe and Wise. But that is what happened last night when Channel 4 went hunting in the non-white economy. I call it that for reasons unconnected with political correctness: it is just that no one seems able to decide whether the economy in question is black or grey.

As with the best of Morecambe and Wise shows, the supporting roles in *Cutting Edge: Rogue Males* were played by people who could themselves have starred. There was Tony, the male stripper, stage name Boy Blue (he dresses as a policeman, but not for long) and he was Alan, who bought and sold everything from camcorders to motorbikes outside his house. But Steve and Derek put them in the shade.

Steve and Derek are builders. There, I have said something hilarious already. Steve and Derek are builders in the sense that Saddam Hussein is a pharmacist. Steve and Derek are cowboy builders: one watched in awe as they put up a wall that had no visible means of support and did not contain the required doorway (a minor oversight). They also played a calling in such a way as to make it resemble a convex map of the Sea of Tranquillity.

There were arguments with customers, shouted threats about payment, there was even a magnificent piece of slapstick under the still-damp ceiling during which Steve and Derek stopped arguing with the appalled customer and started wrestling with each other. It was simply wonderful, but the most wonderful part of it had yet to come.

For Steve and Derek are philosophers. They are not just a couple of



REVIEW

Peter Barnard

If Steve and Derek are funny but hopeless, not to say lethal, Tommy and Crystal are serious but hopeful. They were the subject of *Inside Story: Decent Scum* (BBC1) another documentary that promised depression but delivered a considerable degree of uplift. Steve, Derek and the like are essentially a drain on society, whereas Tommy and Crystal, two homeless youngsters in London, have about them an honesty and directness that makes one hope they escape to better things.

The film was made by James Cohen, whose work includes the impressive *Love on the Needle*, about drug addiction, last year. Cohen offers no judgments, he simply allows the viewer to form an impression. I am wont to complain about the trend away from narration, but here its absence frees the viewer from the shackles of someone else's standpoint.

Tommy is 26. Crystal is 18. Both are from broken homes, both are bright. They met in London, where Crystal had hit the familiar drugs and alcohol trail. They became friends then lovers. Tommy was having none of drugs, nor of crime. He pulled Crystal out of the fire: "I felt ashamed for her and wanted to get her off that." But Crystal always seemed ambivalent about street life. Tommy said: "I've got to get out of here before I've used to it." But Crystal seemed more drawn to the lights of Leicester Square.

When Tommy was persuaded to go home to Scotland for Christmas, Crystal went, too, yet you felt that this was more likely to be the end of their relationship than the next step in its development. And so it proved: Tommy stayed and Crystal left. Tommy settled for letting his mother cosset him, Crystal had more fire than that. I hope she makes it.

And so to the Jordanian and Nevada deserts and the start of a two-part documentary (part two tonight) on the Thrust SST project which put the land speed record in British hands last year. I should declare a bias before writing about *The Mission: Supersonic Dreams* (BBC1) because I believe that calling Thrust a "car" is simply nonsensical. A car is something whose wheels are turned by an engine, but Thrust's wheels are only a platform: the power is from jet propulsion.

All that said, you have to admire Richard Noble's enterprise in setting up the project and Squadron Leader Andy Green's skill and grit in driving the, er, car. And the project has British written all over it, including frequent funding crises and sturdy women making sandwiches. Oh, all right then: well done, lads.

BBC1	BBC2	HTV	CENTRAL	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	
6.00am Business Breakfast (86437) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7) (21321) 9.00 Style Challenge (838033) 9.25 Change That (8377166) 9.50 Kilroy (T) (2361673) 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (2884437) 10.35 The Really Useful Show (T) (7179031) 11.35 What Would You Do? (8889786) 12.00 News (T) (8104499) 12.05pm Call My Bluff (1203128) 12.35 Wipeout (8720708) 1.00 News (T) and weather (31708) 1.30 Regional News (T) (7179031) 1.40 The Weather Show (43022811) 1.45 Neighbours (T) (2149405) 2.10 Petrosili (T) (8365920) 3.00 Lion Country With Lord Bath away on state business, delinquent baby seal rescue leads his mother astray (7907) 3.30 Playdays (4236949) 3.50 Chucky-in-the-Wood (4236949) 4.35 The Wild Horse (8742944) 5.00 Newsworld (T) (7201128) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (4874492) 5.35 Neighbours (871588) 6.00 Sb O'Clock News (T) and weather (825) 6.30 Regional News (505) 7.00 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook! Katy Hill and Jimmy Hill challenge Aisley Harriot and Phil Vickery (T) (2741) 7.30 Tomorrow's World A revolutionary life raft and a hot-water bottle warmed in a microwave feature among the best of British designs (T) (789) 8.00 The Cruise: Teach Me Tonight Last in series, Laura and Gary tie the nautical knot in the ship's cockpit, and dancer Jack finishes exploit to earn Jane a standing ovation (T) (8788) 8.30 Point of View (T) (741234) 8.45 The National Lottery Draw. Carol Spinna presents the millennium-making music provided by Five (T) (731857) 9.00 News (T) and weather (7418) 9.30 The Thin Blue Line With Rowen Atkinson. Comedy series set in a police station (T) (47296) 10.00 The X-Files: Elegy The spirits of dead girls make contact with an autistic bowling alley employee, Scully witnesses a shocking event. With David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson (T) (720865) 10.45 The Mission: Supersonic Dreams Second part of a report on Andy Green's attempt to break the sound barrier in Richard Noble's 750mph car Thrust (312925) WALES: 10.45 The Slate (174321) 11.45 The Mission (708838) 12.05pm Welsh News (827161) 12.35 FILM: The Dirty Dozen: the Next Mission (3376258) 2.05 News headlines and weather (811258) 2.10 BBC News 24 11.34 National Lottery Update (538031) 11.35 The Dirty Dozen: the Next Mission (1985) With Lee Marvin and Ernest Borgnine. Action adventures set in 1949. Directed by Andrew V. McLaglen (T) (845128) 1.05am Weather (8303154) 1.10 BBC News 24	6.10am Traffic Futures: Models of Judditer? (1873018) 6.35 Pyramid, Pluto and Ptolemy (8709993) 7.00 Sport Heat: Basketball News (T) and signing (8306226) 7.15 Record Breakers Gold (T) (45188) 7.45 Olympic Grandstand: includes 12.35 highlights of the men's giant slalom; ice-hockey quarter-finals; freestyle skiing featuring the men's and women's aerials (830650) 8.45 The Record (8815284) 9.10 Short Circuit (4489465) 9.30 Voces Espanolas (8394447) 9.45 Words and Pictures (5349363) 10.30 Talkshow (84302) 10.30 Numerline (3812944) 10.45 Cats' Eyes (3617498) 11.00 Around Scotland (8356156) 11.20 The Geography Programme (8088673) 11.40 Job Bank (815012) 11.50 Moving to English (8204741) 12.10pm Science in Action (1293944) 12.30 Olympic Grandstand: includes 12.35 Women's Figure Skating: The short programme, 1.50 Alpine Slalom: Men's giant slalom highlights; 1.50 Ice Hockey quarter-final action; 2.30 Freestyle Skiing (84882073) 2.45 Westminster (T) (897673) 3.55 News (T) (5324505) 4.00 Real Roots (T) (501854) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (5004741) 4.55 Esther: borrowing cash (893924) 5.30 Today's Day (854) 6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (T) (84494) 6.45 A Little Later with Julie Holland with Tony Bennett, Ed Levy, Mary Chapin Carpenter (T) (886188) 7.00 Essential Winter Olympics Highlights (T) (85299) 8.30 The Travel Show Family skiing holidays in the French Alps; the island of Phuket, Thailand (8188) 9.00 Modern Times: Family Values Lynn Alwey presents two contrasting examples of bringing up children (T) (734457) 9.50 Trouble at the Top: Retnair Returns The former Justice of the Peace Gerald Retnair projects a chain of luxury health and fitness clubs (284418) 10.26 Video Nation Shorts (507673) 10.30 Newsworld (T) (211857) 11.15 On Air (905944) 11.55 Weather (555708) 12.00 The Midnight Hour (41971) 12.30am Learning Zone: O.U.: The Ocean Floor (82161) 1.00 Jamaica and the Sea (21722) 1.20 Family Management (40433) 2.00 Schools: Special Needs (17461) 4.00 Japan Season: Japanese Language and People (82703) 5.00 Business and Training: Voluntary Matters (90546) 5.30 20 Steps to Better Management (830743) 6.00 O.U.: How Low Can You Go? (8424155)	6.00am GMTV (5575505) 9.25 Whi, Loe or Draw (T) (8353586) 9.55 Regional News (720437) 10.00 The Time, The Place (T) (88128) 10.30 This Morning (T) (5882654) 12.20pm Regional News (8193383) 12.30 News (T) and weather (8716505) 12.55 Shortland Street (871296) 1.25 Home and Away (T) (7079094) 1.50 Crossroads (2147738) 2.20 Chef School (82557128) 2.50 Vanessa (T) (6078147) 3.20 News (T) (5447202) 3.25 Regional News and weather (5448573) 3.30 Tots TV (1488166) 3.40 The Blobs (5528470) 3.50 The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (425383) 4.15 Antinatics (T) (8940128) 4.40 Whizzing (T) (8381692) 5.10 WALES: Moneyplanners presented by Brian Hibbard, Carolyn Hill and Hywel Morris (T) (507970) 5.10 Yan Can Cook (507907) 5.40 News (T) and weather (807708) 6.00 Home and Away (T) (722037) 6.25 Regional Weather (891925) 6.30 Regional News (T) (873) 7.00 Emmerdale Emma takes pity on a dying horse; a drunken Roy wants to know who his father's Krilly's baby (T) (7437) 7.30 Coronation Street Natalie's sympathy is misconstrued by Des; Zoe's money-making scheme finds favour with Nick and Lesnie; proud mum Fiona (Angela Griffin) shows off her new arrival (T) (857) 8.00 The Big Match: Middlebrough v Liverpool Bob Wilson introduces live coverage from the Riverside Stadium of the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final second leg. Commentary is provided by Clive Tyldesley (T) (2078) NB: Subsequent programmes are subject to weekday cancellations. 10.00 News at Ten (T) weather and Lottery Result (27944) 10.30 Regional News and weather (841147) 10.40 President II (1959) Danny Glover, Gary Busby and Ruben Blades star in this sequel to Schwarzenegger's jungle romp. Directed by Stephen Hopkins (24401147) 12.35am East a Deadly Spell (1991) Fred Ward, Julieanne Moore and Clancy Brown star in this dark fantasy set in 1940s Los Angeles paraded by magic. Directed by Martin Campbell (822890) 2.20 The Big Match: Chelsea v Arsenal Complete coverage (278567) 4.10 Cybernet (87721316) 4.40 Breakaways (1901687) 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (80197942) 5.00 Coronation Street (T) (83074) 5.30 News (46425)	As HTV West except: 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (8791296) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5079079) 6.25-7.00 Central News (898925) 12.55am Tales from the Crypt (1754277) 1.10 The Big Match (833819) 12.30 News (T) and weather (8716505) 3.00 The Making of a Life Less Ordinary (28884) 3.30 If I Were You (29667) 4.00 The Time, the Place (17189) 4.30 Cybernet (8521345)	As HTV West except: 12.55 Home and Away (8791296) 1.25-1.50 Emmerdale (7079094) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5079079) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (80147)	5.55am Sesame Street (51147) 7.00 The Bigger Breakfast Featuring 9.00 Saved By the Bell (T) (7) 9.35 The Secret World of Alex Mack (T) 10.05 Hang Time (T) 10.35 Pugwell's Summer (T) 11.10 The Bigger Breakfast (774885) 11.30 Powerhouse Political magazine (T) (4321) 12.00 Sesame Street (24857) 12.30pm Light Lunch With Mark Jordan and Tricia Penrose from Heartbeat (1654) 1.30 David, Animated version of the David and Goliath tale (7178321) 1.45 Appointment in London (1953, b/w) Dirk Bogarde stars in this tribute to the Second World War Bomber Command, directed by Philip Leacock (7227490) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (809) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (83383) (7079094) (783383) 4.55 Rick Lake: Interfacing mother-in-laws (T) (8638332) 5.30 Pat Rescue (T) (560) 6.00 Party of Five Teen comedy drama series (T) (833892) 6.50 Fresh Pop (769050) 7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (572673) 7.55 Citizen 2000 Rachel records a rainy holiday with her family (T) (803388) 8.00 Brookside Ron and Mika have a heart-to-heart (T) (1499) 8.30 TV Dinners Hugh Feaney-Whittingstall joins two more amateur cooks with something to celebrate. Tonight: Police Sergeant Paul Francoys hosts a police party for 60 friends and colleagues, while Marina Schofield throws a surprise 70th birthday party for her father (T) (3234) 9.00 ER: Fathers and Sons American hospital drama series. Ross and Greene go to San Diego to make arrangements for Ross's father's funeral. With George Clooney and Anthony Edwards (T) (9741) 10.00 In Edie Comedy about an ousted African military dictator living in exile in St. James's Park. Mukila is convinced he has "mad-cow" disease and makes a startling announcement (877) (T) (25586) 10.30 Friends: The One with the Flashback It's flashback time for the friends, after Monica innocently asks if any of them have ever dated one another (T) (1138418) 11.00 The Mark Thomas Comedy Product Current affairs from a comical viewpoint (5673) Vaughan (T) (75654) 12.00 Under the Moon Interactive sports magazine includes 2.30 ATP Tour: European Community Championships (4211894) 4.30am Athletics: Indoor Grand Prix (T) (31155) 5.00 Screaming Reels (T) (8567345) 5.25 Schools: Science in Focus (T) (8573864)	CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: 10.56075 GHz; sound: 7.00 and 7.20 MHz 8.00am 5 News Early (7000963) 7.00 Movie Cafe (T) (4788147) 7.30 Milkshake! (7456168) 7.35 Hawkazoo: Worm's House (T) (8311050) 8.00 Hawkazoo (T) (875586) 8.30 WideWorld Documentary series about the education system. Race and religion with the education system (11/20) (T) (7974857) 9.00 Espresso Consumer affairs magazine (885234) 10.00 Wings Over the World (T) (1) (284012) 10.30 Sunset Beach (T) (3213854) 11.10 Leza (2324031) 12.05 News (7987673) 12.30pm Family Affairs (T) (7) (782012) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (4767418) 1.30 The Great Garden Game (T) (7825383) 2.00 Beauty and the Beast (2885741) 3.00 100 Per Cent Gold. Quiz (1137789) 3.30 Return to Green Acres (1990) with Eddie Albert and Eva Gabor. A spin-off from the television sitcom, the Douglas's have grown tired of country life and move back to New York City. Directed by William Asher (9170296) 5.20 Russell Grant's Postcards Guernsey (1839673) 5.30 Exclusive Includes an interview with Philippa Forrester and Jeremy Clarkson, presenters of the new BBC show Robot Wars (4364234) 6.00 100 Per Cent (4361147) 6.30 Family Affairs (T) (4352499) 7.00 5 News (T) (1112470) 7.30 Wings Over the World Winter on the Japanese island of Hokkaido (4341333) 8.00 The Pepsal Chart presented by Eddy Temple-Morris and Rhona Mila (1138418) 8.30 Food Fight Comedy quiz. The guests are Emma Harrison and Mark Wogan (1117925) 9.00 Every Time We Say Goodbye (1986) Tom Hanks and Cristina Marcellari star in this romantic drama set in the Middle East during the Second World War. Directed by Moshe Mizrahi (86386760) 10.50 Not The Jack Docherty Show Melinda Messenger talks to Gary Bushel and Miles Pettit (8302079) 11.25 Movie Cafe (T) (384055) 12.05am Live and Dangerous Includes American college football and basketball action (1495274) 5.30 100 Per Cent (T) (8760871)



Melinda Messenger (10.50pm)



Rings fans, Lyr Evans in Twin Town (Box Office 1, 10pm)

SATellite AND CABLE
For further listings see Saturday's Vision SKY 1 7.00am Street Strips (7078) 7.30 Burnt in the Night (8287) 7.45 The Simpsons (8943) 8.15 Oprah Winfrey (612932) 9.00 The Simpsons (8943) 9.30 The Simpsons (8943) 10.00 The Simpsons (8943) 10.30 The Simpsons (8943) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (8234) 12.00 Married With Children (1759) 12.30pm M-A-T-I-N (8432) 1.00 The Simpsons (8943) 1.30 The Simpsons (8943) 2.00 The Simpsons (8943) 2.30 The Simpsons (8943) 3.00 The Simpsons (8943) 3.30 The Simpsons (8943) 4.00 The Simpsons (8943) 4.30 The Simpsons (8943) 5.00 The Simpsons (8943) 5.30 The Simpsons (8943) 6.00 The Simpsons (8943) 6.30 The Simpsons (8943) 7.00 The Simpsons (8943) 7.30 The Simpsons (8943) 8.00 The Simpsons (8943) 8.30 The Simpsons (8943) 9.00 The Simpsons (8943) 9.30 The Simpsons (8943) 10.00 The Simpsons (8943) 10.30 The Simpsons (8943) 11.00 The Simpsons (8943) 11.30 The Simpsons (8943) 12.00 The Simpsons (8943) SKY BOX OFFICE Sky's pay-per-view service channels. To view any film telephone 0800 808082. Each film costs £2.99 per viewing. SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 28) Twin Town (1987) Sky BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 53) The Blue Heart (1997) Sky BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 58) The Preserver's Wife (1999) Sky BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 59) Mafia (1998) SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1 4.00am The Prince and the Pauper (1937) (82055) 5.00am Captive Heart (1987) (817057) 6.00am The Black Eagle (1952) (82212) 7.00am The 13th Hour (1997) (817507) 8.00am The 13th Hour (1997) (817507) 9.00am The 13th Hour (1997) (817507) 10.00am The 13th Hour (1997) (817507) 11.00am The 13th Hour (1997) (817507) 12.00am The 13th Hour (1997) (817507) SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2 8.00am The 13th Hour (1997) (817507) 8.30am The 13th Hour (1997) (817507) 9.00am The 13th Hour (1997) (817507) 9.30am The 13th Hour (1997) (817507) 10.00am The 13th Hour (1997) (817507) 10.30am The 13th Hour (1997) (817507) 11.00am The 13th Hour (1997) (817507) 11.30am The 13th Hour (1997) (817507) 12.00am The 13th Hour (1997) (817507) SKY SPORTS 1 7.00am Sports Centre (89283) 7.30 Wheelchair Tennis (89283) 8.00 Sports Centre (89283) 8.30m Soccer (89283) 9.00 Sports Centre (89283) 9.30m Soccer (89283) 10.00 Sports Centre (89283) 10.30m Soccer (89283) 11.00 Sports Centre (89283) 11.30m Soccer (89283) 12.00 Sports Centre (89283) SKY SPORTS 2 7.00am Sports Centre (89283) 7.30 Wheelchair Tennis (89283) 8.00 Sports Centre (89283) 8.30m Soccer (89283) 9.00 Sports Centre (89283) 9.30m Soccer (89283) 10.00 Sports Centre (89283) 10.30m Soccer (89283) 11.00 Sports Centre (89283) 11.30m Soccer (89283) 12.00 Sports Centre (89283) SKY SPORTS 3 7.00am Sports Centre (89283) 7.30 Wheelchair Tennis (89283) 8.00 Sports Centre (89283) 8.30m Soccer (89283) 9.00 Sports Centre (89283) 9.30m Soccer (89283) 10.00 Sports Centre (89283) 10.30m Soccer (89283) 11.00 Sports Centre (89283) 11.30m Soccer (89283) 12.00 Sports Centre (89283) SKY SPORTS 4 7.00am Sports Centre (89283) 7.30 Wheelchair Tennis (89283) 8.00 Sports Centre (89283) 8.30m Soccer (89283) 9.00 Sports Centre (89283) 9.30m Soccer (89283) 10.00 Sports Centre (89283) 10.30m Soccer (89283) 11.00 Sports Centre (89283) 11.30m Soccer (89283) 12.00 Sports Centre (89283)



RUGBY UNION 42

Vickery pitched into front line against Wales

SPORT

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18 1998

ATHLETICS 46

Golding tunes up for European indoor title attempt



Surrey batsman guides England to series-levelling win amid considerable tension

Butcher ensures epic triumph

Atherton praises players' resolve

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN PORT OF SPAIN
THREE times England have failed when it seemed easier to win here at Queen's Park Oval...



Atherton, left, Stewart and Fraser, the next batsman in, feel the strain as England eke out victory in the dramatic final overs in Port of Spain

IN A moment that was as much personal vindication as team triumph, Michael Atherton's thoughts were for his players, not himself...

THE match produced only 739 runs, yet went deep into its final day. It was another match ruled by the bowlers...

CROSSWORD puzzle with grid and clues.

understanding obvious in the scamping of singles. Brian Lara attracted some derision for frequently stopping the game to change his field...

hands in front of his face, a study in strain. Rain began falling steadily and a wind gusting from nowhere...

in his first over of the afternoon as he had done in the entire morning, a single to Butcher and a confident, on-driven three by Headley...

FULL SCOREBOARD FROM PORT OF SPAIN. Table with columns for West Indies, England, and Bowling details.

ACROSS 3 One still alive (8) 7 Place of pilgrimage (6) 8 Village a play (6) 9 Projecting rim (6) 10 Compassionate (6) 11 Part of leg, sounds like cure (4) 13 Show malicious glee (5) 15 First wife of Jacob (4) 17 Belittle (6) 18 (Small) share (6) 19 Glory: A-10 (bridge) (6) 20 Cup rest (6) 21 Fraught with danger (8)

Wright to undergo knee operation

IAN WRIGHT'S diminishing hopes of making the England World Cup football squad this summer will suffer a significant setback today when the Arsenal striker undergoes knee surgery...

limited Wright to just one appearance, and that as a substitute, in more than a month and there could be as little as six weeks of the domestic season left when he fully recovers from the cartilage injury in his left knee.

mission critical advertisement for Computacenter, featuring a large logo and promotional text.

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP advertisement listing various crossword titles and books available.

Wright: missing from semi-final tonight. A hamstring injury has limited Wright to just one appearance...

Vertical sidebar advertisement for legal services, listing various legal firms and their contact information.